



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Discusses Anti-Iraq Campaigns

LD2603143290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab League Council conducted an emergency meeting this morning in Tunis at the level of permanent representatives, chaired by Hakam Bil'awi, representative of Palestine to the League, and in the presence of Arab League secretary general Chedli Klibi, to discuss the issue of the political and information campaigns against Iraq in Europe.

This meeting comes at the request of Iraq, which recently carried out the death sentence against a British spy working for Israeli intelligence.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Agree To Meet, Expand Ties

JN2603185190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our radio has learned that during the Tubruq meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, an agreement was reached to expand areas of cooperation between Egypt and Syria and to direct the relevant authorities in the two countries to immediately begin implementing this. It also was agreed to conduct lengthy and important meetings in Damascus and Cairo. The dates will be fixed after the blessed month of Ramadan. I have also learned that clearing the Arab atmosphere and settling differences were also discussed with the purpose of unifying the Arab position in the face of challenges, so changes can be dealt with.

Arab League Council Condemns Senate Decision

LD2603220390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab League Council strongly condemned today the decision of the U.S. Senate to consider Jerusalem as capital of Israel.

In a statement issued after its meeting in Tunis today, the council stressed that this decision contradicts the international law and the UN charter and resolutions, especially the UN Security Council resolutions which refuse to recognize Jerusalem as a capital of Israel, which were adopted with the attendance of the U.S. representative and with no objection from him.

The statement added the adoption of such an issue by the U.S. Senate in this particular time does not serve peace and encourages Israel to continue its inhuman practices against the Palestinian citizens.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interview Covers Palestine, Emigration

LD2403203990 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Studio interview granted by "Palestinian President" Yasir 'Arafat, conducted in the "Man of the Hour" program by an unidentified announcer; AL-HAYAT political editor Khayrallah Khaurallah; Yusif Ibrahim, NEW YORK TIMES Middle East affairs correspondent, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Arab political editor Ghassan Sharbal; interviewers not always identifiable—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Good evening, and welcome to our program, "Man of the Hour." Greetings to all Arab citizens who are receiving this program directly or indirectly in Arab countries. In this evening's program we are hosting a prominent political figure who has been ever-present in the international arena for many years. We welcome this program's guest, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

['Arafat] You have done me an injustice. I am not a political figure. I am an ordinary person. I am just a struggler.

[Announcer] No, there is no doubt you are a struggler and a prominent political figure. We are grateful to you for accepting our invitation and coming to the second studio to take part in this program. Greetings to Yasir 'Arafat. Greetings to the martyrs of the land, and greetings to the children of the stones. I also have the pleasure to introduce to you the Arab journalists who have come especially to take part in this program: Khayrallah, the political editor of AL-HAYAT; Yusif Ibrahim, NEW YORK TIMES correspondent on Middle East affairs; and Ghassan Sharbal, Arab political editor of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. [passage omitted]

[Khayrallah] What is the secret of Yasir 'Arafat? I will give a specific example here: When you moved out of Beirut, everyone thought you had fled, and that the end was inevitable, but Yasir 'Arafat stood up and said: I am returning to Palestine. What is the secret behind your ability to believe, even in the bleakest circumstances, that you would triumph?

['Arafat] You know, Khayrallah, that we did not escape from Beirut. If we want to analyze the battle of Beirut, I left because my Lebanese allies—you are aware there was a joint Lebanese-Palestinian command—asked me to leave. I remember we met at Sa'ib Salam's house. All the traditional and national Lebanese leaders were there. They told me: Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], you can see we are being attacked from every direction. How long do you think you can resist? [passage omitted]

[Announcer] 'Arafat has been and is under the threat of death and assassination at any moment. Arab and

foreign newspapers used to report he has been exposed or will be exposed to death threats. Is not Yasir 'Arafat afraid of death?

[Arafat] No, we say the breeze of heaven has been blowing. I hope God will not deprive me of martyrdom. The other day I was with Hani [not further identified] in a car, and I said to him I envied Abu-Jihad because he was granted martyrdom. [passage omitted]

[Ibrahim] Abu-'Ammar, after the long journey, which we viewed at the beginning, can you see the end? Can you see Yasir 'Arafat as president of the republic of Palestine in Jerusalem?

[Arafat] No, not Yasir 'Arafat as president of the republic of Palestine. You know our democracy; I do not know whether they will elect me or not. I am sure, however, that the child featured in the documentary will raise the Palestinian flag over the walls, mosques, and churches of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Many people expected the intifadah to end in the first and second years. We are now in the third year. How did this happen? Instead of a division and an explosion taking place among us, instead of collapse [last word in English], instead of collapse among us, there was a collapse in the highest authority of the Israeli entity. A government collapsed for the first time in Israeli history. Two factors caused the collapse: The intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative, which we announced in Algiers in 1988. I also announced it to the world at the United Nations in Geneva in 1988.

[Interviewer] Is the Baker plan included in this?

[Arafat] No, the Baker plan was not the cause of this collapse. What caused the collapse was the Israeli peace plan. It was subsequent to this that Shamir put forward his plan, and President Husni Mubarak put forward his 10 queries. The 10 Egyptian queries later were approved by President Bush and by Baker. Shevardnadze, the EC member-countries, and China. When I went to Japan, they issued a statement approving the 10 Egyptian points. The Scandinavian and nonaligned countries approved the 10 points. What happened then? [The vote was] six to six in the [Israeli] Inner Cabinet. Instead of the United States adopting the six who supported it, those who supported the 10 points, it therefore adopted Shamir at that time and gave him a second chance, and Mr. Baker put forward his plan. We must recall this U.S. Administration is the first administration in which President Bush said the end of the Israeli occupation. [preceding six words in English and then repeated in Arabic] Mr. Baker says the Israelis must forget the greater Israeli dream, the greater Israel. [preceding three words in English] We must recall all these. The main causes of the collapse, however, are the intifadah and the Palestinian initiative for peace in the Middle East.

[Interviewer] Despite this, there is an Israeli condition regarding the ending of the intifadah. Acceptance of any kind of plan would be conditional on this point.

[Arafat] We have been with them for a long time. We have a saying, in our country: O mountain, you cannot be shaken by the wind.

[Interviewer] But we say the Palestinian state is a stone's throw away. If we adhere to supporting them with the belief time is infinite, it is possible the issue might take a long time.

[Arafat] Today I heard something nice from my brother Ahmed Bensouda [adviser to King Hassan II] which I would like to repeat. If we assume the distance is 1000 km, what would the Arabs decide to do? Would they travel the 1000 km in a rocket, a plane, a car, or on foot? This would be our Palestinian and Arab decision. When would the state be established? The Palestinian issue and state exist on the political map. You know whatever exists on the political map. You know whatever exists on the political map would exist on the geographical map. It only is a matter of time.

[Interviewer] Is it a matter of carrying out the Baker plan?

[Arafat] No, Baker's aim is an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, that is, breaking the barrier for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue that would pave the way for an international conference under UN patronage, with the participation of the United Nations, Security Council permanent member states, and all the parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO.

[Interviewer] Would this be a beginning?

[Arafat] Yes, there was also, for instance, an initiative by President Mitterand and President Gorbachev to the effect that a start should be made through a preparatory committee of Security Council permanent member states. But now it has been seen that a start should be made through the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue mentioned in the Baker Plan.

[Interviewer] Abu-'Ammar, is the fall of the Shamir government and the possibility of Peres succeeding in forming a new government likely to lead to this first step?

[Arafat] We must know on what basis the Shamir government fell. The Shamir government collapsed because of two things: either war or peace. Shamir rejected the peace plan, and if he returns, it will mean the continuation of the war plan.

[Interviewer] And if Peres comes?

[Arafat] If Peres comes it would mean the Israelis have chosen the line of peace, the line of dialogue, the current of history. This is what I want to ask. Will the Israelis choose the current of history and accept the peace plan? The Berlin wall has fallen, and no one would have believed it would do so.

I have come here after 15 hours of travel to arrive at this meeting with you. You may not believe it. I came from

where? From Namibia, where I lived emotional moments. As you know, we are linked to SWAPO [South-West Africa Peoples Organization] and President Sam Nujoma, and to the ANC [African National Congress] and president [as heard] Nelson Mandela by very strong relations. A few months ago—last year at a time like this—we were sitting together in Addis Ababa, and it did not seem possible Namibia would get its independence. But superpowers intervened, including the United States. If we were to talk about elections, the operation in Namibia was a U.S. plan. The agreement was called the New York agreement.

Yesterday I saw Mr. Baker, who came to celebrate with President Sam Nujoma, with the other presidents and leaders who came to celebrate the hoisting of the Namibia flag, the SWAPO flag on Namibian soil. Two weeks before this I was in Lusaka celebrating the welcoming of my brother, the struggler Nelson Mandela, after 27 years in jail.

So, if this happens in Namibia, and in the racist regime of South Africa they have accepted dialogue with Mandela, then, will Israel, the twin-regime of South Africa, remain the odd one out, rowing against the tide of history that does not pardon?

[Interviewer] What was the most difficult and the most dangerous decision? Was it the decision to fire the first bullet on the Israeli forces of occupation, or the decision to sit down at the table for talks with the Israelis?

[‘Arafat] The most difficult or the easiest?

[Interviewer] The most difficult.

[‘Arafat] The most difficult one is to sit down with them.

[Interviewer] Sitting down is it?

[‘Arafat] Yes, it was the most difficult. It was a struggle with oneself.

[Interviewer] Merely a struggle with oneself?

[‘Arafat] Yes, with oneself. With oneself; but it was not only with ‘Arafat’s self. It was with the Palestinian and the Arab, and whether they would accept it. That was why we were eager to consolidate our stance at Casablanca, which fully adopted the Palestinian peace initiative. Furthermore, even the acceptance to conducting elections and challenging Shamir came at an Arab summit.

[Interviewer] This is correct. The Jerusalem Committee, however, which is chaired by King Hassan II, has yet to convene. The Committee on Lebanon had met and had made whatever decisions it wanted. It is not our problem here to evaluate such decisions. The Committee on Palestine, however, has yet to meet. Why?

[‘Arafat] No, the Committee of Palestine—the eight-man committee, which stemmed from the Algiers summit, the emergency conference to consolidate the intifadah—did meet.

[Interviewer] I meant the committee stemming from...

[‘Arafat, interrupting] As far as the second committee is concerned, a while ago I was talking with His Majesty King Hassan; he is only waiting for the reply of two countries,—namely, Egypt and Syria—before convening it. God willing, we hope to be able to play a role, as I told him I will contact presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad in order that they would send their agreement for the convening of the nine-man committee, God willing.

[Interviewer] Please allow me, Abu-‘Ammar, to go back to Ghassan’s question about the most difficult decision. It was of course a difficult decision. Did you make it last year?

[‘Arafat] It was not I who made such a decision. The Palestinian leadership did.

[Interviewer] Well, it was made last year. Why was such a decision—if you allow me to ask you this difficult question—not taken 10 years ago when al-Sadat made a similar decision to go ahead with peace with Israel?

[‘Arafat] As a matter of fact, you have asked me a very difficult question, and I do not really want to reveal secrets. I have, however, one thing to say to you. Had Al-Sadat stuck to the idea of a Palestinian state in his speech at the Knesset, the Arab stance would have been different. Allow me to remind you I did not only hear about such matters; I lived them. Had Al-Sadat stuck in his speech—We can refer here to Dayan’s memoirs; Dayan said he convinced President Al-Sadat to cross out the paragraph on the Palestinian state in his speech before the Knesset. Events took place in succession until self-determination for the Palestinian people was abandoned at Camp David, where only vague words were used, words with which Israel is protecting itself today. I would like to remind you here that we sent an Arab delegation from the Baghdad summit to meet President Al-Sadat. I am sure had President Al-Sadat received the delegation, matters would have been different today. You know he refused to receive the delegation, and banned any Egyptian official from meeting the visiting Arab delegation, which was led by Lebanese Prime Minister Al-Huss.

[Interviewer] Good, if you allow me, Mr. president. There is, of course, the Palestinian peace plan. But we have to wait for the Israeli reply. The Palestinian plan calls for an end to the occupation, the establishment of peace based on self-determination and the guaranteeing of Israel’s borders. But will the Israelis and the next government—which is going to be led by Shim’on Peres, who already has accepted some of the points in the Egyptian plan—accept those points, namely the right of return and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state?

[Arafat] I should not be asked this question. They [Israelis] should be asked this question. Do they want peace?

[Interviewer] What are your assessments?

[Arafat] Well, I am not their spokesman. If they want peace, the road for peace is there. There are, of course, the international peace initiatives. If they do not want to accept the Palestinian peace plan, they have the peace initiative adopted at the United Nations by 148 votes, Resolution 176. This resolution is supported by all world countries except Israel and the United States, who voted against it. The bet now is: Do they want peace, or do they want war? I would like to say here there will be no wars like those waged before, like Dayan's six-day war, and the seven-day-and-a-few-hours war. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] There is an Israeli split about the dialogue with the Palestinians. A split on how to define peace. Is there a danger a split in the Palestinian ranks would take place following the start of the dialogue? Or that the Palestinians—or at least those inside the occupied territories—would split on the peace choices following the beginning of the dialogue?

[Arafat] Be assured about this matter. We discuss our problem democratically, a practice of which we are proud. Our democracy is one of the most difficult in the world, the democracy of the jungle of the guns, of which we are very proud. We are proud of our democracy. Therefore, we did not make our decision; the decision following a debate with our cadres at all detachments, which lasted 640 hours, then followed by the meeting of the PNC [Palestinian National Council] at Algiers. The decision to seek peace thus was not imposed from above or from the leadership. No, the decision to seek peace was made with the unanimous agreement of the Palestinian rank and file.

[Interviewer] How would you then explain some of the criticism voiced by a number of detachments within the PLO?

[Arafat] This is part of our democracy. I do not lead small cattle. I will say there is something wrong the day my brothers stop criticizing me.

[Interviewer] Is there a review of a decision or a statement, or an acceptance of a plan following criticism? Does a review take place?

[Arafat] A review of everything does take place. The latest meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis three weeks ago discussed matters with frankness, and we reaffirmed in a statement our acceptance of the statement issued following the Baghdad meeting of the Central Council, that is, our acceptance of the principle of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue based on the written Palestinian constants.

[Interviewer] Your Excellency talked often about the time factor. Time is passing. During the last year, a number of dangerous and strategic changes took place in

the world, including the collapse of the so-called communist empire, a matter which, strategically, has cost Arabs dearly. Has time, as well as the collapse of this empire, not affected your stance toward negotiations?

[Arafat] Absolutely not. The only thing which might affect me, and which I might take into account, is the Jewish emigration. Absolutely nothing else apart from that.

[Khayrallah] Abu-'Ammar, in relation to Jewish emigration, is there a change in the Palestinian attitude? I noticed a few days ago, after the meeting of Fatah's Revolutionary Council, that the statement issued called for a halt to Soviet emigration, while in the past, you did not go this far.

[Arafat] No, I announced before the meeting of the Revolutionary Council at a press conference in Malaysia that I do not accept the emigration while we have not reached a peace agreement, because this is an attempt at demographic change. If a Jew is allowed to come to the land of Palestine because he is a Jew, I will invite all Christians and all Muslims to come to Palestine. Why only Jews?

[Announcer] All right. Can you not invite all the Palestinians to return while Israel violates all the agreements.

[Arafat] No, this is an invitation. Either Israel calls a halt to immigration, or the Arab nation will take measures, because the 3.5 million...[sentence incomplete as heard] According to their plan there will be 3 million by the end of the century, that is, 300,000 each year. Three million. They are not for Palestine; Palestine is occupied. For what? For expansion. Look, this is an Israeli 10 agora coin. This coin is very new. There is the Israeli candlestick on its back, and below it the inscription Greater Israel. It includes Sinai, all Lebanon, all Jordan, two thirds of Syria, three-quarters of Iraq, one third of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including Madinah and Khaybar. This is Israel; this is very important. I ask: Did the Arabs see this map?

[Khayrallah] But what can be done now?

[Arafat] Much.

[Khayrallah] For instance? There is a sweeping current in the world toward freedom and allowing immigration. Israel is not the only beneficiary from this.

[Arafat] No, do not mix things. May God forgive you. Is freedom to infringe my freedom? Freedom ends when others' freedom begins. Freedom is limited. There is no freedom at the expense of the freedom of others, and there are no rights at the expense of the rights of others. I am not against the right of man to emigrate. I am not against the right of one to emigrate from the Soviet Union. He can go free. But why come to my country? He can go to empty Canada. He can go to Australia. He has Latin America. There are the Scandinavian countries. He has the United States itself. Why is the United States closing its door now, at this moment?

[Khayrallah] But what is to be done? What you are saying is correct 100 per cent, but what is to be done?

[Ibrahim] Also the Soviet Union itself has said several times it will not prevent Jewish emigration.

[Arafat] We sent a delegation, and told the Soviet Union three things: First, there must be a transit station. We, as Palestinians and an Arab nation, do not accept there should be direct sea or air routes to Israel. Thus, make a transit station. It has been proven that at transit stations, 90 per cent of those who go to them do not go to Israel, as happened at the Vienna transit station, the Rome transit station, and the transit station in Bucharest. [passage omitted] Does the reintroduction of these stations contradict human rights? Is it reasonable the Soviet passport and nationality are withdrawn from the one who emigrates? This is against human rights. This is an antihuman rights practice. We told them his passport should remain valid for five years at least, and he must have the right to return. Since he has the right to travel, he should have the right to return to the Soviet Union, as happened when President Gorbachev agreed to the return of 84 Jewish families to the Soviet Union last year. They asked to return from the United States to the Soviet Union, and he approved their return. Second: Resolutions should be issued changing the previous resolutions which abolish citizenship, withdraw passports, and prevent the right to return. Third: He should have with him a return ticket and the right to return. Making people leave for Palestine is transfer, not emigration.

[Interviewer] What did the Soviets say?

[Arafat] They said this issue would be put forward to the Supreme Soviet. This is what was said to the delegation led by brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. During the coming two weeks, they will answer us. This issue will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet so decisions can be made.

[Interviewer] There is an issue that has emerged. It is the idea of an international conference. Basically, this is a Soviet idea that surfaced in the shadow of an international balance in the Middle East, while this international balance is tilting in favor of the United States. What is left regarding the idea of this international conferences? Is the issue here related to signing the results of direct negotiations?

[Arafat] No, you are talking only about the Soviet Union. I am talking about the United Nations, I am talking about China, I am talking about Japan, I am talking about the EEC, I am talking about the nonaligned countries, I am talking about Scandinavian countries. What does the United Nations mean? It means all these powers put together. Who has told you the new era has to be the era of the United States? Have you not read THE TIMES paper, Mr. Ibrahim, or is it TIME, that talked about the new superpower of the two Germanys. Look here. We live in times where an era ends and another era emerges. We should realize that following the Malta

summit, this era presents all challenges before us. Either we are able to face up to these challenges, or agreements reached at the Malta summit will have been at our expense, similar to what happened during the Yalta summit, when the agreements were concluded at our expense.

[Interviewer] There is a review of the 1945 agreement. There is a new strategy, the factors of which have begun to emerge during the past few months. These factors changed many things. What have the Palestinians benefited in concrete terms from these changes?

[Arafat] Undoubtedly, the first thing that emerged is the people's right to self-determination, democracy, and liberty. The characteristic of this era can be summed up in these words. Peoples in Namibia took to the streets demanding democracy and liberty; peoples in South Africa demanded democracy and freedom; and peoples in Eastern Europe demanded democracy and liberty. Likewise, the intifadah demands democracy and liberty.

[Interviewer] How can the Palestinians exploit these international circumstances in their interests?

[Arafat] We should work all together. [passage omitted]

We and the international community should work together, because no one should believe that if a war erupted, it would destroy only the Middle East or Arab countries. If a destructive war was to erupt, it would be a catastrophe that would destroy everyone and all their interests.

[Interviewer] If you permit, Abu-'Ammar, within the framework of the solution presented before the international community, how do you visualize the steps of a solution? All we can see before us is the existence of a plan for negotiations among the Americans the Egyptians, and the Israelis on how to start dialogue with the Palestinians. How could we move from this step to the next?

[Arafat] Starting with a dialogue with the Palestinians as a preparatory step for an international conference that the United States... [interviewer interrupts]...And no to elections?

[Arafat] Part of a dialogue with the Palestinians would be elections, elections similar to those agreed upon by the international community in Namibia. Why not take the Namibian example, which is a U.S. model. For this reason I called the agreement the New York accords. We have the example of Namibia, where yesterday I was celebrating with my brother, Sam Nujoma, the hoisting of the flag of Namibia and of the Namibian people on Namibian soil.

[Interviewer] Did you meet President Bush in Namibia and have talks?

[Arafat] No, President Bush was not in Namibia; you mean Baker.

[Interviewer] Did you meet Baker?

[Arafat] No, I did not.

[Interviewer] Not even secretly, and have talks with him?

[Arafat] No, neither secretly, nor openly.

[Interviewer] How was the encounter with President Mubarak in Namibia?

[Arafat] Don't you know that between President Mubarak and myself there are the best and strongest of ties? It was an encounter between two brothers. I cherish President Mubarak, his positions, those of Egypt and the people of Egypt.

[Interviewer] Does this explain the presence in Namibia of the same trio that signed the Camp David agreement being in the current talks for starting negotiations or a dialogue?

[Arafat] No, there was no Israel, because Sam Nujoma refused Israel an invitation. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Currently, the same trio that worked on the Camp David agreement is busy on the plan for starting negotiations between Palestinians and...

[Arafat, interrupting] What Camp David trio?

[Interviewer] Israel, Egypt, and the United States.

[Arafat] I have told you Israel was not present.

[Interviewer] Camp David!

[Arafat] No, I am talking about Namibia.

[Interviewer] But I am not talking about Namibia. [laughter by all]

After the statements made by former U.S. President Carter on Syria's preparedness to enter into negotiations with Israel in the framework of an international conference, during which the question of the Golan would be raised, is there a fresh occasion for a rapprochement between Syria and the leadership of the organization, based on a common conception of the method of negotiations with Israel?

[Arafat] First, a call for an international conference is a decision emanating from the highest Arab summits, the highest Arab meetings, and the Arab summit. All Arab meetings have stressed the need for an international conference under UN patronage, with the participation of Security Council member states, and all the parties to the conflict in the region—Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO, and...[change thought] I am not an ostrich like Shamir, who says I do not want...[changes thought] The Israeli enemy does exist, and I do not make peace with my friends, I make peace with my enemies. No one makes peace with his friends. I am going to make peace with my enemies, with the Israelis. [passage omitted]

I want to mention just one thing: Palestinian-Syrian relations recently witnessed a tangible improvement. At the nonaligned states conference, I met brother Khaddam and brother Al-Shara', and recently, at the meeting of the Arab League, I had a private meeting at the end of the league session with brother Faruq al-Shara'. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] If you permit, Abu-'Ammar, in the context of the improvement of relations with Syria, the organization, or yourself, in the name of the organization, entered into the question of hostages in Lebanon. You met the sister of one of these hostages and you said words to the effect that there was progress in this subject. Furthermore, there is a lot of contradiction in what is said in Tehran and in Syria. Where does the issue of hostages stand now? Do you have information?

[Arafat] You are aware we were involved in the subject of the hostages even during the times of the American Embassy hostages in Tehran. Fortunately at that time, the ambassador of the state of Palestine was in Tehran. You will recall that he himself escorted the first 13 hostages released to the plane. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Do you think the release of all the hostages is very near, as is stressed by some leaders in the region?

[Arafat] I do not wish to give my view on this subject, but I hope so.

[Interviewer] Let us leave the issue of the hostages and return to the man of the hour and the Palestinian cause. If you permit, Abu-'Ammar, in 10 days time, or in about two weeks, the Jerusalem Committee will meet, is this not so?

[Arafat] God willing, on the sixth or the fifth [of April].

[Interviewer] Under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. What do you expect? Is it a question of blessings only, or is it a question of discussing schemes or plans?

[Arafat] The Jerusalem Committee is, in fact, meeting at the request of Palestine. This request was made in an official message which I sent to his majesty the King, and to which he thankfully replied, concerning Soviet Jewish emigration to the Palestinian territories.

[Interviewer] apart from this, are there any other points which will be discussed during the meeting?

[Arafat] Undoubtedly the uprising and ways of supporting it and other aspects of the Palestinian issue will be discussed.

[Interviewer] In the event of Israel's rejection of any plan, in the event of an escalation of the situation in one way or the other, does the organization have any strategy other than the uprising?

[Arafat] Only the leadership could ask me about this subject. [passage indistinct] Brothers, no one plays with exposed cards!

[Interviewer] What if a Shamir government returns? Would you consider it as a government of war? [passage indistinct] If that happens, what would be the Palestinian strategy?

[Arafat] What would be the Arab strategy? The war is not waged only against the Palestinians. The war against the Palestinians has been continuing for three years; it has been continuing since Palestine was occupied. The coming war, however, will be against the Arabs. The map I had shown you—Greater Israel, from the Euphrates to the Nile [preceding eight words in English] [words indistinct]

[Interviewer] If the war continues only against the Palestinians, as has been the case for two and a half years, under these circumstances, what would be the Palestinian strategy?

[Arafat] Let us wait and see! [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Why do you think there has not been an Arab summit?

[Arafat] We are about to conduct an Arab summit.

[Interviewer] Given the great dangers facing the Arab motherland you mention, why is the summit being postponed?

[Arafat] These subjects were discussed officially during the recent foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis, and it was agreed to speed up conducting an Arab summit conference; it has been agreed upon.

[Interviewer] The Israeli expansionist scheme is not new. Since its arrival in the region, Israel has had this scheme for expanding in...

[Arafat, interrupting] This is new, the new immigrants! The demographic bomb, this is a new weapon!

[Announcer] How can this situation be confronted?

[Arafat] The Arab nation must decide.

[Announcer] What if the Arab nation did not decide?

[Arafat] It is our right to resist any attempt to settle Jews in Palestinian territories. I recall what President Bush said recently to [word indistinct]. He said: No settlements in East Jerusalem. We call it holy Jerusalem. No settlements in that Jerusalem, because it is occupied territory.

[Announcer] But we are facing the reality of a large group of Jews, hundreds and thousands, arriving and settling in Israel. They have houses, which means they are settling.

[Arafat] There are settlements near Nablus, Tulkaram, and East Jerusalem, and based on this, we called, through the nine-man committee which met recently in

Tunis, for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council for this issue to be debated at the highest level. The "open debate" [quoted words in English] conducted its first meeting on the 16th [March] and adjourned until the 12th [April] to lay down a comprehensive plan at the international level. There has to be a plan at the Arab level, however, and contacts are underway with Arab leaders to face up to this.

[Announcer] Abu-'Ammar, what guarantees did the Americans get to begin a dialogue with the PLO and to support the Palestinian peace plan—that is, up to a point?

[Arafat] What kind of guarantees do you mean?

[Announcer] What is related to the background of this consent, or this new U.S. position. Is it only the Palestinian peace initiative or campaign?

[Arafat] No, it is not possible for the United States to speak about two people getting killed in Tiananmen square in China and remain silent about those killed so far in the intifadeh—1,100 martyred, 75,000 wounded, and 68,000 imprisoned in collective detention camps, which are worse than the Nazi detention camps of World War II for Jews themselves—5,600 miscarriages, 6,500 people disabled, thousands of houses blown up, destroyed, or shut down, and thousands of acres of fruit-bearing trees burned or uprooted, persistent attacks on Islamic and Christian holy places. The world cannot stand unmoved.

[Announcer] We know the United States is among the defenders of human rights; this is something we may agree to disagree on. But we also know the United States is concerned primarily about its own interests; its interests in the Middle East. What guarantees did the Palestine Liberation Organization, or Arabs, offer?

[Arafat] I would like to remind you that a serious meeting took place; some Zionist [word indistinct] met some U.S. officials a few days ago. They were telling them about Palestinian human rights—this was with Carter. They said to him: We will not apply the human rights criteria recognized internationally to a Palestinian. [passage omitted]

[Khayrallah] Abu-'Ammar, are you not afraid Israel might exploit religious extremism in the region to make it look as though it is the only security threat to U.S. interests since the disappearance of the Communist threat or to be more frank, the Soviet threat? The specter of the Soviet threat has disappeared. Do you not believe Israel may even encourage religious extremism in the region in order to justify its existence?

[Arafat] I would like to say something. We cannot talk about religious extremism in the sense that Israel might exploit it. So far this kind of talk does not exist. It does not exist in a general sense. It does exist in a narrow sense here and there. It exists in Ireland between the Catholics and Protestants, it exists in Tamil and among

the Hindus themselves. It also exists in the United States. It is not confined to our region. There are 18 representatives of extremist religious parties in the Israeli Knesset. Why does no one remark on that? [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Does Yasir 'Arafat ever make decisions, or a decision that is not agreed by everyone, but despite that, it is implemented because he regards it to be in the interest of...

['Arafat, interrupting] Even if I implement a decision, and my brothers make a decision later, sometimes I am forced to make a decision in the absence of the leadership, and I will withdraw it if I am wrong. I do not have any qualms about that. [passage omitted]

[Ibrahim] In the past few months you raised the question of resigning many times. Why?

['Arafat] This is natural. The Palestine National Council is about to meet. In six months, at the latest, the Palestine National Council will meet. It will ask me to account for myself. It will say: We gave you an opportunity; what has happened to the Palestinian peace initiative which we approved? I will have to tell them what has happened. This will be the time for a vote of confidence in the Executive Committee, of which I am chairman. They either will give it a vote of confidence, or they will not, in which case I shall resign. [passage omitted]

[Khayrallah] Sometimes leaders feel respect for some of their enemies. Do you feel anything like this toward any of the Israeli leaders?

['Arafat] Of course, I have respect for Ben Gurion. He established the State of Israel. It was established by Ben Gurion. Israeli leaders said: We do not agree. I respect my enemy in the same way as I respect my friend. [passage omitted]

[Sharbal] The world at this stage is witnessing difficulties in coexistence between national and ethnic groups. After this long and bitter conflict, can you envisage the possibility of coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians?

['Arafat] Do not forget we have said Christians, Jews, and Muslims will coexist in our state in equality and [word indistinct]. There were two Jews in the last Fatah congress. There are Jews who belong to our movement in Israeli prisons. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. president, let us conclude this interview, up to a point: The Palestinian state—when, how, and in which way?

['Arafat] At a stone's throw. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] What is your message to the world?

['Arafat] I want to say one thing: Peace in Palestine means peace in the Middle East, and peace in the Middle East means peace in the world. There will be no peace in the world without peace in Palestine. Our people have the right to live, and our children have the right to live free in peace on their land, the land of peace, the land of prophets: Palestine. We are not against anyone, but we live and let live.

[Announcer] Do you believe Peres' government will respond to this call for peace?

['Arafat] We will have to wait and see. I do not want, especially while he is forming a government, to interfere in this subject, so it cannot be exploited by any of the Israeli sides in the ongoing internal conflict. Therefore, I will not say more about this.

[Announcer] I will repeat my question about your message to the world. The state of Palestine. What then?

['Arafat] I would like to tell the world it cannot talk about human rights and forget the rights of a Palestinian. It cannot talk about free and honest elections and agree to elections under Israeli rule. There cannot be peace in the whole world without Palestinian peace. Therefore, I say to the whole world we should cooperate, endeavor together and help each other to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East for the sake of our children and their children.

[Announcer] Greetings to the children of the stones. Again, I thank president Yasir 'Arafat for accepting this invitation. I thank the participants in this program, and I thank all those present.

Algeria

Draft Monetary Laws Reported; U.S. Senate Chided

LD2603210190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Complementing the course of reform and democracy in Algiers, the people's deputies continue to draw up the legislative framework suitable for this phase of the country's life. After the two laws on municipalities and work relations, today was the turn of the two laws on provinces and the currency and loans. With that the extraordinary session of the Assembly has concluded. Jamal Nassar:

[Nassar] The authority to make decisions locally and reforming monetary policy are two principal aims of the draft laws on the provinces and the currency and loans. The two laws were ratified on the last day of the extraordinary session of the National People's Assembly [NPA]. [passage omitted]

In addition to this, the reforms recorded a positive step by the deputies' ratification of the draft law on currency and loans. According to the complementary report presented by the finance and planning committee, the draft law lays new foundations for Algerian monetary policy.

[Unidentified speaker] What is new in this law is that:

First: It rehabilitates the Central Bank and creates new and flexible mechanisms in order to revitalize the economy and protect the national currency.

Second: It defines new relations between the Central Bank and the state treasury within a contractual framework.

Third: It consolidates the credibility of the system of the Central Bank in order to consolidate investment.

Fourth: It allows transfer of capital for investment within the framework of reciprocity.

Fifth: It allows the establishment of a stock exchange.

Sixth: It gradually rehabilitates the value of the Algerian dinar by giving more guarantees to deposits.

Seventh: It introduces new regulations which allow monetary dealings with banks without interest.

[Nassar] In this session the NPA, through the chairman of the foreign affairs committee, condemned the U.S. Senate stand that considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel. The condemnation resolution described the Senate's stand as indicating a disregard for international resolutions concerning the legal position of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

New Party Holds First Public Meeting

LD2003235690 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The first public meeting of the Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal [DMAR] was held in Algiers this afternoon. On the agenda were the Evian agreements and this group's political program. Farida Baccouche was there:

[Baccouche] [passage omitted] The whole of the first part of this meeting dealt with the Evian agreements—a date to be rehabilitated and even to be celebrated, this is the DMAR's position. [passage omitted]

The second part of this meeting was above all a presentation of the DMAR. [passage omitted] In simple language, [party leader] Slimane Emirati answered questions on the party's program. To begin with, he said that this party is not anxious to (?assert or) [word indistinct] anything whatsoever. The DMAR seems to wish first of all to invest in men. It is with this potential, he said, that we can solve our own problems, but until this time our brains have remained mainly outside the country.

With regard to certain precise questions, such as participation in the forthcoming elections and the external debt, the DMAR says it will specify its position following meetings with its members. With regard to financial assistance from the state, the DMAR appears to wish to remain an opposition party on the basis of the old adage, repeated by Mr. Emirati, which says that one does not bite the hand which feeds it.

The DMAR also advocates the privatization of everything which can be privatized, except the strategic sector. We asked for details about this sector and we were cited oil, mining, and the iron and steel industry. As for banks, why should they not be privatized, the DMAR asks. With regard to the constitution, this party explains that the passage concerning religion would gain by being clearer: Instead of religion of the state the DMAR prefers religion of the people, which would avoid interpretations or deductions made by some in order to have the Islamic sharia applied, while the DMAR itself prefers the term social justice.

Prime Minister Receives Protesting Farmers

LD2103214490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The problem of farmers whose land was nationalized under the law on the agrarian revolution has been put forward again persistently. Yesterday morning [17 March] around 2,000 farmers gathered in front of the prime minister's office demanding that their land should be returned to them. The head of government received a representative delegation which told the prime minister about their demand for the return of nationalized land to its owners, since the country has

entered a new stage which is characterized by political, economic, and social reforms which recognize the right of private ownership.

The delegation noted that the 1987 law on the restructuring of the agricultural sector has been implemented unfairly; many people have been able to obtain agricultural land without having any previous right to it. This has had negative effect on returns.

The head of government reassured them that the situation will be resolved, not only for this group but for the agricultural sector as a whole. Here is part of the exchange between Mouloud Hamrouche and the farmers whose land were nationalized. I would like to remind you that the Forum of Political Parties will immediately follow this exchange between Hamrouche and the farmers whose land was nationalized, that is, in 10 minutes:

[Begin Hamrouche recording] If the aim of this meeting is to discuss the law and the state law, we will not be able to reach our objective. Anyway, I do not want to dwell on the past; it does not concern us. The important thing is to correct our mistakes. This is our objective. [passage omitted]

We have no preconceived ideas, political or otherwise. The only idea we have is justice and what is rightly due. We want to give everyone what is rightly due to him. I can assure you that for as long as this government is in power, it will consider that it has not done its duty if there are people who feel that they have been unjustly treated. You may regard this as a pledge. However, we must study and resolve every issue, and we must not perpetrate another injustice when resolving an issue. [passage omitted]

You mentioned the [agrarian revolution] law. The law referred to land which belonged to the colonialists, and stipulated that the land of the agrarian revolution must not be touched. Read the law. I have read it, and I am informed. [passage omitted]

The government will consider whether it has made a mistake in the case of those who have surrendered their land and received compensation. We will reassess the cases of those who have not received compensation and did not accept the law and have grievances. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid on Senate's Jerusalem Proposal

NC2603195190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1923 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met tonight with Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Egypt.

After the meeting Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he and the ambassador discussed the proposal by some members of

the U.S. Senate that the United States should recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the U.S. ambassador assured him that the U.S. Administration's position on the Jerusalem issue is firm and clear and has not changed. The ambassador made it clear that the proposal expresses the opinion of some members of the U.S. Senate.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that it would have been better not to raise that issue or deal with it for the time being and not to bring it up in that manner. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that all sides are eager to promote the peace process and to achieve peace for the benefit of all the parties involved.

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador said that the proposal does not affect the U.S. Administration's position, which remains unchanged. He pointed out that the status of Jerusalem will be discussed in negotiations among the concerned parties. The ambassador added that the U.S. Administration will do its utmost to promote the peace process.

Daily Denounces 'Zionist' Campaign Against Bush

NC1803081090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT
18 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper denounces the Zionist forces' campaign against U.S. President George Bush to force him to abandon his ideas and principles rejecting the settling of new Jewish immigrants in the occupied territory, particularly in East Jerusalem.

In an editorial today under the headline "Israeli Fantasies" [Ghalwashat], AL-AHRAM says that Bush's adherence to his courageous stand, the U.S. warning to Israel against settling new immigrants in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and confronting Israel's decision to establish housing for new immigrants in East Jerusalem made Israel realize that the United States considers East Jerusalem an occupied territory, which made Israel vent its fury.

AL-AHRAM states that the Zionist campaign against Bush covered the old and new ground, and even his slips, holding him and his administration responsible for the current government crisis and political divisions in Israel. The campaign even involved Secretary of State James Baker, basing it on his statement that the PLO has abided by its pledges and declarations and has done nothing contrary to its declared stances.

Paper Urges Dissuasion of Soviet Jewish Emigrants

NC2003085290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT
20 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR calls on the Arab states to make use of the suicide of a Soviet immigrant Jew, who has experienced the bitter reality inside Israel, and of the demonstration in Tel Aviv of Soviet immigrants

shouting slogans against the Israeli Government, which misled them with its glamorous propaganda.

In its editorial published today, the paper says these incidents could be taken advantage of to halt the Soviet immigration into Israel. The paper adds that an Arab team should travel to the Soviet Union to meet Soviet Jews there and explain the reality inside Israel to them, based on the painful reality being experienced by the early Soviet Jewish immigrants inside Israel. The paper further adds that the Arab team should point out to them that Israel is no longer the promised paradise for the Jews of the world, but a graveyard for them, their hopes, and their ambitions for prosperity and affluence. In addition, Israel refuses to live in peace with its neighbors and creates an atmosphere of hatred, tension, and hostility in the Middle East, so how could it provide a happy and stable life for these emigrants?

In conclusion, the paper says: Let us move and proceed from all these facts.

Mubarak on Tubruq Talks, Al-Rabitah Plant

NC2603080290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that his meeting in Tubruq with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir was an important occasion to exchange views and to discuss several important Arab topics. It was also an opportunity to discuss the international situation and the important changes in the world.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, President Mubarak said: The Arab world cannot remain stationary while the world is coming together, uniting, and developing around us. Whoever does not join the march and misses the train will be the big loser in this world.

President Mubarak explained that during his 16-hour visit to Tubruq, he met with the three leaders several times. Some of these meetings were bilateral between Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhafi or between Mubarak and President al-Asad. He said: During the quadripartite meeting, I was eager to tell the three leaders how part of the African experiment deals with the current age and how it tackles topics that are as difficult as our own cause.

President Mubarak described his private meeting with Col. al-Qadhafi as important, especially since it was devoted to two basic topics: Egyptian-Libyan relations and Libya's relations with the United States, West Germany, and Italy.

President Mubarak said: In the sphere of bilateral relations, we stressed the need to speed up action to implement agreements on launching joint projects and on free movement of individuals and goods. We have instructed the central bank governors in Cairo and Tripoli to draw

up rules and regulations to control and categorize this process in order to remove red tape and simplify it.

President Mubarak added: As for the second topic, I met with the U.S. secretary of state and the West German and Italian foreign ministers in Cairo and in the Namibian capital Windhoek. They each explained their own point of view on the al-Rabitah plant. I discussed all this with Col. al-Qadhafi, and we agreed that we need to cooperate and to give each other the full picture. This will help to unify our ideas and stands when we talk about Arab issues with other parties. President Mubarak commended Libya's giving as a gift a squadron of L-39 trainer aircraft to the Egyptian Air Force. He said: They are among the best trainer aircraft in the world. Col. al-Qadhafi has increased the squadron's aircraft from 10 to 12.

On his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mubarak said: I and President al-Asad agreed to expand cooperation between both countries. We also agreed that each country's responsible authorities will immediately begin implementing this decision. We also agreed to hold lengthy and in-depth meetings in Damascus and Cairo. The date will be fixed later, but they are expected to take place after Ramadan.

President Mubarak added: I and President al-Asad also reviewed the overall Arab situation and international issues. We examined clearing the Arab atmosphere and settling Arab differences so that we can unite our voices and agree on one stand to face the challenges and deal with the international changes.

Editorial Views Tubruq Summit, Arab Cohesion

JN2603174790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
25 Mar 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Tubruq Meeting and Arab Goals"]

[Text] To mark the 20th anniversary of the evacuation of British forces from Libya, a meeting was held in Tubruq grouping President Mubarak, Syria's Hafiz al-Asad, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council, and Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the the Libyan revolution.

The historic meeting is a contribution to ongoing Arab efforts to promote such cohesion as would make it possible for the Arabs to tackle serious challenges, not least among them the transfer of Soviet Jews and their settling in occupied Arab territory and global changes that have cast their shadow over Arab economic and political strategies.

The Arab world cannot isolate itself from major world entities now in existence. The Arab world is split by artificial divisions. It can only hold out if it forges a united, well-coordinated political and economic entity founded on common threads running through the Arab peoples.

It is only natural that their enemies should want to frustrate Arab efforts to build such an entity. Given sufficient vigilance, resolve, and determination, our objectives become attainable. Hence the significance of the Tubruq meeting.

'Gift' of Libyan Training Planes Arrives

*NC2603191890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Ten training planes which Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi has presented as a gift to the Egyptian air forces arrived at Bilbays military base today. Col. al-Qadhafi decided to present the planes and their spare parts as a gift to Egypt during the recent Libyan festivities marking the evacuation of UK soldiers from Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir base in Tubruq on 24 March.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

*NC2403213390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT
24 Mar 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA)—Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas and the accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a two-day visit to Cairo.

He will deliver a message from Indonesian President Suharto to President Husni Mubarak. He will hold talks tomorrow, Sunday, with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is scheduled to meet with the Indonesian foreign minister on Monday. [passage omitted]

Discusses Trade With Makramallah

*NC2503145390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, met today with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. They discussed development of economic and trade relations between the two countries and preparations for the meetings of the Egyptian-Indonesian joint committee's second session in Cairo next September.

They also discussed ways to create new spheres of bilateral cooperation, particularly as Egypt and Indonesia both have numerous capabilities, such as low-cost labor, experts, markets, and natural resources.

The first session of the Egyptian-Indonesian joint committee was held in Jakarta in 1988.

Meets Butrus Ghali, Comments

*NC2503162690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said he will deliver a message to President Mubarak tomorrow from Indonesian President Suharto in reply to President Mubarak's message to the Indonesian president. His excellency praised the strong ties between the two presidents and countries.

He said he met today with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and they discussed ways to promote bilateral ties. He added that they also reviewed current international issues. He said that Egypt and Indonesia have identical stands on the issues that were discussed.

He announced that Indonesia condemns the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories because it contravenes international law. He said that Indonesia had earlier announced that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is illegal and contravenes international law.

The Indonesian foreign minister said that he had extended an invitation to Dr. Butrus Ghali to visit Indonesia.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will hold talks with the Indonesian foreign minister tomorrow.

Conveys Suharto Message to Mubarak

*NC2603163990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who handed him a written message from Indonesian President Suharto. The message deals with bilateral ties and praises Egypt's efforts in international forums to resolve the Middle East problem. The message also discusses the situation in both the Middle East and South Asia.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the Indonesian charge d'affaires in Cairo, and Egypt's ambassador to Indonesia.

Mubarak also received the Sudanese defense minister. General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, attended the meeting.

Views Ties, Middle East Issues

*NC2603144590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has hailed President Husni Mubarak's wise policy, which aims to bring about peace in the Middle East and Africa.

In an interview with MENA, Alatas said that the message he is carrying to President Mubarak from Indonesian President Suharto is part of the constant consultations between the two countries regarding recent international developments.

He also hailed the political relations between the two countries, as well as their nearness of views and their joint interest in various regional and international problems. He indicated that economic and trade relations do not match political relations.

He explained that his visit is intended to develop trade relations between Egypt and Indonesia and to boost South-South dialogue.

Alatas said that during his meeting with Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, he discussed the prospects for setting up a joint company and promoting various investments between their countries. He added that the Joint Technical Egyptian-Indonesian Committee will hold its second meeting in Cairo at the end of this year.

Alatas stressed that Indonesia appreciates Egypt's role in trying to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. His country also supports President Mubarak's proposals. It believes that Israel should not dictate conditions and should not express an opinion on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the upcoming peace talks.

Alatas said that his country supports the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO's leadership to restore their legitimate rights and to bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. It also supports the convening of an International Peace Conference under UN auspices and with the Palestinians' participation on an equal footing with the other delegations.

He noted that the international conference has not been convened because of Israel's intransigence and its indifference to international proposals and because of its repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories.

Alatas stressed that the Palestinian intifadah is considered an important phase in the course of the Palestinian struggle because it has helped to change the world's concept of the Palestinian issue. Moreover, because of the intifadah, there are signs that Israel will eventually go to the negotiating table.

Answering a question on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, Alatas said that Indonesia denounces Israel's settlement policy, which he termed illegal and in violation of international law. He indicated that the Palestinian issue might become more complicated because of the influx of Soviet Jews. He said that his country denounces this immigration and that the Soviet Jews have the right to emigrate to Europe, the United States or anywhere else in the world but not to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip because this is an illegal measure.

He expressed his support for the Arab and Islamic states' efforts on this subject as well as their efforts to find the proper solution to the Palestinian issue.

He stressed the need to strengthen cooperation among the Islamic states under the auspices of the Islamic Conference Organization, especially in the economic sphere, but he said that the time is not yet ripe to establish an Islamic common market. [passage omitted]

Departs 26 Mar

NC2603171890 Cairo MENA in English 1423 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo March 26—(MENA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas left here today for home at the end of a two-day visit during which he handed President Husni Mubarak a message from President Suharto. Ali Alatas, while here, discussed with Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, means of boosting bilateral relations notably in the economic domain. He also conferred with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister.

AFP Reports Egyptian Reporter Arrested in Khartoum

NC2703105090 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (AFP) - Sudanese authorities have detained correspondent for the REUTERS NEWS AGENCY in Khartoum, journalists reported here Tuesday. They said Hamzah Hindawi, an Egyptian, was arrested at Khartoum airport on Friday on his return from a visit to Cairo.

No reasons were given for his reported detention, which has not been officially announced. But reliable sources in Cairo said Egyptian authorities were investigating the matter. Mr. Hindawi was recently criticized by officials in the Sudanese military junta displeased with his reporting.

In February a Nairobi-based FINANCIAL TIMES journalist was detained and held for a week in Khartoum, where he had been investigating conditions for political prisoners in Sudan. Sudanese authorities said he was carrying documents "that had nothing to do with journalism." The reporter, Julian Ozanne, had cited reports of torture in Sudanese prisons.

Detention of Al-Minya Defendants Extended

JN2403181390 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
22 Mar 90 p 1

[By Sami Kamal in al-Minya]

[Text] The Al-Minya prosecutor's office decided yesterday to extend the prison sentence of Muhammad Abu-Tabanjah, chief of the extremists who carried out the recent vandalism in al-Minya Governorate, by another 15 days. It also decided to jail four of the defendants who were detained the day before yesterday

in connection with the same incidents for 15 days as well. They are: Kamal Qutub, 'Ala Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, and 'Ali Muhammad Hamid Marsi.

Counselor Muhammad Khalafallah, the attorney general in al-Minya, told AL-AKHBAR that they have been charged with kidnapping and that they could get life sentences with hard labor. The fourth defendant, Naji Ibrahim Sayyid, was charged with arson and rioting. His sentence can range between life and temporary hard labor.

The prosecution today will review 37 cases of defendants from the secondary school of agriculture in Bani Mazar to look into keeping them in detention some time longer to continue the investigation. They are accused of rioting and destroying the school.

Counselor Muhammad Khalafallah said that the investigation of these issues has reached the final stages and there is nothing left but to capture the rest of those involved in the kidnapping who are at large. They are seven people in Abu-Quqas.

Minister Wali on Developments in Al-Minya

NC2303083390 Cairo MENA in English 0742 GMT
23 Mar 90

[Text] At a political and popular rally in al-Minya yesterday, Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, said President Mubarak would pay a visit to al-Minya governorate soon and that no religious party would be established in Egypt because it is against religious parties and the Egyptians have been a homogeneous society throughout history, reported AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR prominently on their front pages.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reported in its second lead story that Islamic preachers and Christian clergymen would hold a meeting at the premises of the Higher Islamic Affairs Council on Monday to set a permanent strategy for enlightening people throughout Egypt on matters of national unity and maintenance of the security of the homeland.

According to AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR Dr Wali said that the recent incidents in al-Minya governorate confirmed the awareness of citizens because they were able to circumscribe the incidents which threatened the unity of people and their property.

Minister Briefs Assembly on Al-Minya Incidents

NC2503162390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] The People's Assembly has continued its regular sessions chaired by Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub. At the beginning of today's session, Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa responded to a question submitted by one of the deputies on the communal sedition incidents which occurred in February.

The interior minister reported that these incidents began after rumors were spread among the citizens. An extremist individual exaggerated these rumors in a mosque in Abu Qurqas with the aim of provoking sentiments.

The interior minister added that the leaders of extremist groups who profess to defend Islam used reckless acts to try to establish a state within a state in defiance of legitimacy and the law. He said they disregarded the fact that Islam recognizes only the method of dealing with matters in an amicable manner.

Interior Minister Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Halim Musa emphasized that police forces, being responsible for the homeland's and citizens' security, cannot permit such acts or be lenient with all those who provoke sectarian strife or threaten national unity. He added that orders were given to the police forces to deal immediately with those who provoke sedition with the full force of the law and as permitted by relevant procedures.

The interior minister said 216 individuals were arrested during the incidents in al-Minya. He added that the prosecutor's office kept 95 of these in custody for interrogation.

The interior minister praised the various branches of political and popular institutions for dealing with the al-Minya incidents with a national perspective and in a positive manner. He said that government and opposition newspapers also dealt with these incidents with great wisdom and did not try to exaggerate or make political capital out of them.

Al-Minya Jihad Leader Arrested in Cairo

JN2603191390 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
25 Mar 90 p 7

[Excerpt] The security apparatus in al-Minya, with the help of Cairo's criminal investigation department, have apprehended Ahmad 'Ishmawi Muhammad, 27, unemployed. He is a leader of the Jihad organization in al-Minya and was apprehended while hiding at a relative's house in the al-Qubbah gardens district of Cairo. [passage omitted]

20 Islamic Jihad Members Arrested in Port Said

JN2603170390 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
25 Mar 90 p 7

[By Nabil al-Tafahini]

[Text] Port Said—Security men in Port Said have arrested 20 members of the Jihad organization and other Islamic groups who clashed with the police and threw chairs and stones at them during a 400-strong demonstration that followed the evening prayer the day before yesterday to protest against the arrest of two girls who were distributing leaflets instigating sectarian sedition.

The 20 people arrested were interrogated by Muhammad al-Sayyad, the al-Manakh prosecutor general. They were charged with mobbing, destroying public property, and propagating sedition. Seven of them were released on bail and it was decided to detain eight leaders of the demonstration [figures as published].

'Reconciliation' Between Muslims, Copts Reported

JN2403180990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
22 Mar 90 p 8

[By Hajjaj al-Husayni]

[Excerpt] Al-Minya—A national reconciliation meeting took place between Muslims and Copts in the city of Abu Qurqas the day before yesterday. The event affirmed the profound relations between the two communities over the centuries. The reconciliation, which took place on instructions from President Husni Mubarak, was attended by many officials, including Dr. Ahmad Salamah, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of international cooperation. The incidents were discussed in an atmosphere of complete frankness. The causes of the incidents and future precautions were also discussed to prevent the recurrence of such incidents anywhere else.

It was revealed that the rioters wanted to ruin Egypt and foment sedition. It was also revealed that those who set Christian property on fire were young people who had been exploited by the Jihad Organization through the use of terms like honor and religion, given that these two issues stir up Muslims, especially in upper Egypt.

It was also learned that the leaflet that caused the incidents contained a great deal of exaggeration and falsification, that the Muslim and Coptic female students and young men referred to by the leaflet were degenerates, and that some Christians exploited the incidents for personal purposes, so they planned arson for their property in order to frame the Jihad Organization. [passage omitted]

Libya

Maritime Bureau Statement on U.S. Maneuvers

LD2603162490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1528
26 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar JANA—The Maritime Inspection Bureau at the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport has issued a statement today concerning the maneuvers being staged in the Mediterranean by the U.S. 6th Fleet. It reads:

As a result of the military exercises being carried out in the middle of the Mediterranean by the U.S. 6th Fleet on 26-27 March 1990, the Great Jamahiriya relinquishes responsibility for what happens to maritime traffic in the following coordinates:

East 18	55 by North 55	33
East 15	18 by North 35	33
East 05	16 by North 48	33
East 05	16 by North 40	33
East 27	16 by North 10	35
East 28	18 by North 26	34
East 55	18 by North 55	35

Considering we are one of the countries of the region, we consider the mentioned zone closed to maritime traffic, and we will not welcome or assist any ship sailing in, entering, or leaving it. Out of the Great Jamahiriya's concern for the safety of navigation in the zone, it announces this so the results would be clear to all the states of the region.

Thus, all international bodies and authorities are requested to convey this statement to all concerned with shipping.

JANA Editor on Senate Jerusalem Resolution

LD2603224990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The U.S. Congress has announced its approval regarding considering Arab Jerusalem as permanent capital of the Zionist enemy. The Congress's bill mentioned that it recommended the approval according to which the city of Jerusalem would be the capital of the so-called Israel. JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on this biased decision saying:

The hostile line of the American official institutions toward the religious sites and sanctities of the Islamic peoples is confirmed day after day. He pointed out this decision reflects the extent of American involvement in supporting the Zionists and the American's blind support for them. The editor added that international public opinion supported and still supports the natural right of the Palestinian Arab people in recovering and liberating its land, which was usurped by the Zionists. Despite all this, the United States continues its arrogance in the face of this international orientation, pointing out that the democratic and liberation forces had adopted these rights on more than one occasion, especially that they know very well that the Palestinian Arab people suffers from oppression and injustice unprecedented in the history of mankind.

JANA's Arab affairs editor stressed that Muslims all over the world see the issue of the occupation of Palestine in a way which constitutes a revolutionary incentive for them, particularly that the United States has signed with the Zionist enemy an agreement on strategic cooperation, as it has undoubtedly become a state which is hostile to reality and to Muslims in all parts of the world who believe Jerusalem is an indivisible part of their spiritual existence. The editor pointed out that this Zionist tyranny, embodied in hateful terrorism, in its nature opposes all religions based on

the Zionist superstitions that consider all other humans mere savages who do not deserve to live. All this confirms that the Zionist movement is characterized by a racist attitude based on the sabotage of the models and values of the other peoples. He pointed out that despite all that, the United States supports this orientation, which is against mankind.

JANA's Arab affairs editor concluded his comment saying: The revolutionaries of the generation of anger continue, despite all this, their brave struggle as they have become a symbol of our pan-Arab struggle based on moral and mobilization support embodied in the interaction of the masses of our Arab nation with this generation, which has with its potentialities the respect of all mankind and freedom-loving people. He affirmed that our Arab nation would continue with definite determination and inflexible will to support this Arab revolutionary generation liberate Palestine from the sea to the river and from south to south [as heard].

Commentary on Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

LD2703101790 Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi' [March] 27, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. Senate has announced that Arab al-Quds [Jerusalem] is a permanent capital of the Zionist enemy.

The draft resolution of this Senate has approved that this city is the capital of the so-called Israel.

JANA Arab affairs editor, remarking on this biased resolution, says that it is reaffirmed day after day that the U.S. official establishments have a hostile stand vis-a-vis the feelings of the Islamic peoples and their sanctities pointing out that this resolution comes to reflect the extent of the involvement of the U.S. in blindly supporting and backing the Zionists.

He adds that the world public opinion has been supporting the natural right of the Palestinian Arab people to redeem and liberate its land usurped by the Zionists. Despite [words indistinct] the U.S. is going too far in its arrogance towards this international orientation. He has pointed out that the democratic and liberation forces worldwide have repeatedly endorsed these rights as they are well aware that the Palestinian people is suffering from an injustice unprecedented in the annals of man.

He has stressed that Muslims worldwide see in the occupation of Palestine a revolutionary stimulus inciting them given the fact that the U.S. has concluded a strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy, so much so that it has become undoubtedly clear that the U.S. is a state hostile to truth and Muslims the world over especially those who believe that al-Quds is an integral part of the spiritual feelings.

He maintains that this Zionist despotism is represented on the prejudiced terrorism and is naturally biased

against all other religions. This stems from the components the Zionist myth is based on. These components regard all other peoples as savages meriting no life. All of this reconfirms that the Zionist movement is characterized with a racist conception based on subverting the values and ideals of other peoples. He has pointed out that despite all of this the U.S. stands supportive to this anti-human tendency.

The editor concludes by pointing out that the revolutionaries of the generation of anger, notwithstanding all of this, continue their brave struggle becoming a revolutionary symbol for our pan-arab struggle. This struggle starts from a moral and tactical support [words indistinct] of our Arab nation with this generation that through its competence and capability has won the respect [word indistinct] in its entirety. Apart from those freedom-loving people stressing that our Arab nation will resolutely support his revolutionary Arab generation to [words indistinct] from the sea to the river and from the south to the south.

Chad Accuses Libya of Attacks via Sudan

AB2703095090 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Paris, March 27 (AFP)—Chad has accused Libya of attacking its troops stationed along the border with Sudan's Darfur Province and accused Sudan of complicity.

In a statement issued late Monday after a special cabinet meeting and released through the Chad Embassy here, the Ndjamena authorities said that Chad's Armed Forces (FANT) had been attacked at Bahai and Tine, on Chadian territory close to the Sudanese province of Darfur. It said the clashes had been "particularly violent."

The statement recalled that in October and November last year Chadian troops had destroyed the "bases of the (Libyan) Islamic Legion" along the Libyan-Chad border, but it said "other troops, equipped with powerful new material and coming from Darfur, had carried out this new aggression....proving that Libya has not abandoned its plan to destabilise and dismantle Chad".

Chad accused the Sudanese authorities of "irrefutably" choosing the enemy camp. "Their duplicity and complicity in this aggression, their support for the Islamic Legion and Libyan mercenaries, is common knowledge."

The statement said that Chad would use all material and human means to halt the aggression and "wipe out the Islamic Legion bases and the Libyan mercenaries."

Chad's statement came only hours after Chadian opposition groups loyal to dissident former Armed Forces commander Idriss Deby said they had repelled an attack by Chadian loyalist forces against their command post at

Bamissy, 170 kms (106 miles) inside the Sudanese province of Darfur, and to have chased them back into Chadian territory.

Reports of the latest clashes came as ministerial delegations from Libya and Chad were due to meet in Libreville this week to discuss their border dispute over the Aouzou Strip which both countries claim. Gabon has been acting as mediator in the dispute.

There was no immediate reaction from Libya to the Chadian claims.

France, which boosted its military presence in Chad in 1986, has recently been cutting back. It has slashed its contingent at the anti-aircraft defence system stationed at Abeche, eastern Chad, from 300 to 100 men.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech on Evacuation Anniversary

*LD2403151590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1150 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from live relay of festivities at Tubruq airport marking the anniversary of the evacuation of British military forces and of the Gulf of Sidra confrontation]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Brothers, we welcome our brothers from Syria, Egypt, and Sudan [applause], who came here to take part in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the evacuation of the British forces from this land. We are celebrating jointly this occasion from Syria to Sudan and from Libya to Egypt, and Egyptian, Syrian, and Libyan pilots have jointly taken part to mark this day and this anniversary, which makes us feel very happy and unable to express our feelings at this very moment. This meeting and this joint air display by the Egyptian, Syrian, and Libyan air forces over the skies of this liberated base has a very deep meaning. [passage omitted]

We deliberately called this base the Jamal Abd-al-Nasir base after the British forces were thrown out of it; we wanted to answer and irritate the colonialists. This base, which was used in order to topple Jamal Abd-al-Nasir and his revolution and defeat the Egyptian people, was renamed after the colonialist forces had been thrown out, and we renamed it the Jamal Abd-al-Nasir base in defiance of the British who used it against Jamal Abd-al-Nasir and against Egypt. [passage omitted]

Brothers, this celebration is not being held in this small spot only. Millions of the sons of our Arab nation in Egypt, Syria, and Sudan share these celebrations and are watching these celebrations. They consider this as one of their national days. Today, we are meeting with our brothers to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of the British colonialist forces, and at the same time in order to study the situation of this nation which is surrounded by dangers. Nations are after it, just like eaters are after a meal, as the Prophet said, prayers and the peace of God be upon him.

Brothers, we want to turn this fraternal family gathering into a serious attempt at least to plant signs on the road to the salvation of this nation. These four peoples which today are commemorating this anniversary, from Sudan, Egypt, Syria, and Libya, constitute the weight of the Arab nation, the heart of the Arab nation [applause]. The Egyptian, Syrian, Sudanese, and Libyan peoples can do something real and effective for the future of the Arab nation.

Brothers, it is useless to talk after those bitter experiences, but what is useful is to work. And if we want to speak, we want to say just what confirms this.

We would like to announce to our brothers in Egypt, Syria, and Sudan, that we are going ahead. We in Libya do not look back at all. We have burned the bridges which could take us back. We have an experience full of learned lessons which should be put in the service of this nation and its future. Among those lessons is the fact that we have gained nothing from regionalism and its consecration as well as from the consecration of the artificial borders. We have discovered that those borders were between the forces of colonialism and not between the sons of the Arab people. The colonialist forces planned and drew those borders. The people which live in Egypt and Libya are the same Arab people; they are from the same families.

The borders which today are called the Libyan-Egyptian borders, were in fact borders between the Italian and the British forces used to occupy this Arab region. And the barbed wire that separates what is called Egypt and what is called Libya is barbed wire that the Italians laid down to prevent Egyptian supplies from reaching Umar al-Mukhtar when he was leading battles against them. Also among those lessons is the fact that abuses, accusations, insults on radios and in newspapers will not bring anything beneficial to us, nothing at all.

We have found out that efforts were lost in an attempt to justify regionalism and limited positions and viewpoints in order to affirm that this side is right or the other side is wrong, that this side seeks to win and the other to lose. And recently, we have found out that there is no winners or losers whenever two Arabs are concerned, whether by words or even by war. Therefore, brothers, we have decided, out of our historic experience that must be respected, that the sons of one Arab nation must drop forever all the bitter methods of the past, all the negative things of the past, all regionalist challenges, all regionalist justifications, regionalist positions.

The danger is greater than our personal positions, greater than regionalist borders, than our self-interests. The danger is invading all the nation, and the enemy does not differentiate between this Arab and that Arab. The enemy wants to possess the land, the wealth of this land. It wants to take over this position between the ocean and the Gulf. Therefore, it does not help the inhabitants in this of that country between the ocean and the Gulf.

Second, we want to affirm to our dear brothers in this historic encounter that we will instill confidence in you brothers. We know that the hateful past, the attempts made by reaction and regionalism, and attempts made by renegades, and the poisons instilled by Zionism and imperialism in the Arab climate to divide and rule have created the doubts that have pervaded us. And, some of us may advance with one foot and move back with the other foot. This is justified and reasonable for us, because the past period was very bad in our inter-Arab relations. As a matter of fact, the world of the Arabs was filled with conspiracies against one another, creating doubts in our practices and positions. Hence, I want to say to our brothers: we will instill our trust in you. I mean: you will trust us, and we want to trust you. We must instill this in the psychological state in which we are now living. We may have doubts about one another, and this doubt in fact results from the conspiracies, the conspiracies of our enemies against us.

Brothers, we tried out our own regional experiences and tried to export them to others. We even tried to seek foreign help against each other. We tried to ridicule what has taken place here and there. And each one of us tried to claim that he was right and that he was the sober one and that he was better than anyone else. All those attempts fanned the fire more, divided us more and more, and further consecrated the borders. We have decided, at least in Libya, that we are going to torpedo the negative of the past. We look forward with firmness and good will to the future. And, furthermore, our deeds in the future will prove the truthfulness of our words; we are prompted to do this by the interests of our nation as a whole.

The greatest danger facing our nation is if Egypt one day falls under occupation. And what will Libya's situation be then? Undoubtedly Libya will come under threats, be insecure, and will be considered occupied as long as Egypt is occupied. And, likewise, if Libya become a U.S. or a Zionist colony, for example, or even occupied by any other race, what will the situation of Egypt be then? Or even Tunisia, Algeria, and Sudan? All those countries will be threatened. [passage omitted]

Therefore, brothers, we should not try to outbid our brothers in Egypt and Syria. And particularly, we should not try to outbid my brother Hafiz al-Asad or my brother Husni Mubarak, who flew their aircraft and fought the Zionist enemy, the Arab nation's archenemy, and led battles against the enemy of the nation. We cannot try to outbid Egypt and Syria or those who gave thousands of their dearest sons to confront Zionism, and thereby the imperialist forces behind it. They do not need us at all to explain to them that Zionism is an enemy. They have fought this enemy; this enemy has fought them, and they saw their sons die before them, their homes destroyed in front of them. They saw the Zionist tyranny. We cannot say to them that the United States has created Israel, and that the United States is a bitter enemy of this nation.

They do not need this, because they were the ones to discover this in direct battles with the real U.S. presence behind the Israeli front.

Al-Sadat himself was the one to tell us: I have stopped the war because the United States entered the battle against Egypt, on the side of the Israelis. This al-Sadat, who was brought to account because of the United States, was the one to say this. He also said that tanks from the United States were being unloaded at the al-Arish air base, oiled and greased and ready for combat. They are driven by Israeli soldiers to fight Egypt in Sinai. And all the world knows that the siege of the heroic Third Army was possible only because of the U.S. intervention with its satellites and electronics. They told the Israelis: There is a gap in the Deversoir area, and you can enter through it.

The United States was in the air and the Israelis on the ground. There was close cooperation, complete integration of the forces of evil and aggression hostile to this nation. The United States is the bitter enemy until doomsday. There is nothing but confrontation. Brothers, we want peace, and we must not leave ourselves or the world in doubt that we want peace. If we did not want peace then we would be barbarians. We are a civilized nation, a nation of peace, a nation whose symbol is: peace be upon you. There is no other nation in the world where when one person meets another and says: peace and blessings of God be upon you. These heavenly, blessed, angelic words are said only by one Arab to another, or one Muslim to another. [passage omitted]

However, we cannot accept a peace laced with humiliation for this nation; never. Therefore, the real enemy knows that the Arabs are sincere on the issue of peace. But, in the future, it will become clear to the world that the enemy is the one who rejects peace. Look at these black allegations saying that Arabs are warmongers. Who said this? [passage indistinct]

The astonishment should not be about the emigration of Caspians to Palestine because this is being considered as a farce in international politics. They think it is illogical that Russia and the United States should agree to it. However, there should be international astonishment at how the Arab nation could accept it. How the Arab nation would accept that Caspians would emigrate to its territories. This is a farce. And if we are going to keep silent on it, other people would only talk about it with astonishment. I would like to stress here, brothers, that we would like to lift the banners of peace in our countries as well as peace for others. We have never been against Jews. The Arabs are in fact the cousins of the Jews, if they are really Israelites—but not the Caspians. We support the right of the latter to live, however, wherever they like in the world in peace; we support them against oppression. We support them. And if Russia has oppressed the Caspians because they are Jews, why should it oppress and displace them? This is wrong. And we stand by them. If the United States has oppressed the Jews we would stand by them. If Germany has oppressed

the Jews we stand by them against such oppression. However, for the Arab nation to become a victim of other peoples' oppression of other peoples should not be allowed to take place. And if we cannot reject it today by using force, we should teach you and your children so that they effectively reject it tomorrow. Therefore, those who have imposed upon us the Caspians' emigration might impose upon us some very strange things indeed in the future too.

And now they have started to control what we are doing in our land. What is this factory and what is this road? Earth satellites have taken suspicious pictures of this land. And they wanted to carry out inspections of such and such installations because they became suspicious about them. Imagine the extent of such a thing. Tomorrow they would interfere with our house and our wives. They might compel us to divorce our wives. Who knows? If the U.S. satellite took a picture of our wives and an American lined one of our wives he might say, because he is strong and tyrannical, I want you to divorce her. Well, my brothers should know that this is merely a joke, but who knows, it might become a reality one day. We should hide them. Anybody who has an ugly wife should feel lucky in front of Americans. Well, we should compel them to wear a veil, as President al-Asad just suggested. The problem is the fact that lasers can even penetrate the veil. [words indistinct]

They will interfere with our house. Therefore we should prepare to defend ourselves. We are facing arrogance and excess, as well as international ridicule and tyranny. The United States thinks of itself as God on this earth; it has formed committees to examine Libyan, Egyptian, Syrian, Sudanese, and Ugandan affairs, and any other country in the world. Those committees prepare daily reports to this false God on the economic and human rights situation as well as how Semitism is regarded.

West Germany has announced that it provided the United States with information that Libya is producing poison gases. Imagine that! You Germans should have told us first about your claim that you have discovered us making such a thing, in order that we could prove to you that we had not produced any mustard gas.

They presented it to the United States. If the United States is a policeman in relation to Germany, in relation to Libya, to hell with America. We die standing! [applause] We indeed do not possess nuclear bombs, no intercontinental missiles, no four million soldiers like the United States, and we do not possess these mighty fleets, but in the end we possess the right to death, the right to die and not to submit to the United States. The Libyan people are ready to die rather than submit to the United States, if only for one hour! To hell with this life! [applause]. Yes! We do not submit to the United States, even for one hour in this world; otherwise, our life would be worthless! We do not say that we will beat the United States and that we are stronger than the United States. This would be idle talk! But we say that we possess a

decision which the United States cannot prevail upon. This decision is the decision to die in the face of the United States.

Brothers, Libya is part of a great nation; Libya is not Panama, not Grenada, not even Nicaragua. Libya is a part of a great nation stretching from the Ocean to the Gulf. The Libyan people are part of the Great Arab people. Libya is not Panama, brothers. Libya is the Arab nation. The United States will lose the Arab nation. What I say about Libya applies to Iraq, Mauritania, Egypt and Syria. If there is aggression against Iraq, the United States will lose all the Arabs. If there is aggression against Egypt, the enemy will lose all the Arabs. If there is aggression against Syria and the Sudan, the enemy will lose all the Arabs. These are the correct stands, brothers.

Brothers, we are a nation. The prophet Jesus said man does not live on bread alone. They want us to live only on bread. They humiliate us and give us bread. To hell with bread! We are a nation who wants to live with dignity and pride on this earth and under the sun. We may give up bread, but we cannot do without dignity. The United States wants the opposite. It wants to give us bread as though we were sheep! As though we are chicken! We are people! This is a nation! An Arab nation, and not an animal farm they provide with animal feed and bread crumbs, and put it in a cage! The United States is wrong. First, my talk will not bring it back to its senses. When it commits aggression, the consequences will bring it back to its senses, because many a tyrant has paid the price of tyranny in history, especially those who oppress peoples. Fortunately we are on the eve of the era of the masses, the rebellious masses, the masses that no one can oppose, the masses the United States cannot resist. It may resist a government, resist a party, bring down a ruler, assassinate Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, kidnap Noriega by force, bring down the plane of Omar Torrijos, imprison Mandela for a quarter of century. This it can do, but it cannot do anything in front of the ants [as heard]. If the peoples of the six continents of the world rebel against the United States, it will be finished forever! The United States is like a mosaic. It consists of the oppressed blacks, whom it treats in the most inhumane way. It talks boastfully about human rights while denying the black nation its right to self-determination, and annihilates the American Indians.

Power has blinded the United States. It is suffering from delusions of grandeur and power. It returns to its senses only when it makes mistakes. It uses its power, and all peoples are against it. We will turn into a Beirut; into ants, mosquitoes, flies; into sand grains inside the U.S. machine in order to wreck it when aggression is launched against us. The United States knows this, it knows this. It knows that just one man sacrificing himself for a cause could well destroy the biggest U.S. establishment. To this day, we, the Americans, and the rest of the world do not know the author of the operations that led to hundreds of victims on land, sea, and in the air. We are all ignorant of their authors—but it was counteraction to U.S. practices. An unknown fidai, whom we do not know, dealt

fatal blows to the Americans. And there are millions of unknown fedayeen who are bracing themselves for the future. The United States is bringing this on itself.

The United States is the one that should work for peace, because it is the octopus straddling the world, wanting to suck the blood and resources of the world. It is the United States that has bases, fleets, units everywhere. It seeks to monopolize, to blackmail the world. It is the United States that needs peace. As for us, in the end, we would sacrifice peace.

What do we want? We have no skyscrapers, nuclear reactors, huge industrial complexes that need markets and spare parts from the United States, or cooperation with industrial powers. In the end, what would we lose? Nothing. We are still poor, primitive. If the cup overflows, we would be the first to sacrifice everything and turn into (?a jinni), and we would challenge the United States to use even its nuclear bombs.

It is the United States that needs peace, because it wants markets, riches to plunder, zones of influence, and its bases must be in areas of peace; but its bases are threatened in the Philippines, in Germany, in the Mediterranean. Its embassies under heavy guard; are threatened. All the world would attack the United States anywhere when it senses it is Satan on earth. We still are still saying to the United States: Curb your devil and sit down with humans. Respect blacks, American Indians, Arabs. Hands off Palestine; let the battle be between Palestinians and Israelis. In just 24 hours, the battle would end in favor of the Palestinians if the United States left the combat to just Palestinians and Israelis. But the battle is now between the Palestinian people, driven out of their homes, and all the United States with its power.

It has taken away our belonging to the Semite race. We are the Semite. It denies us this. Arabs are accused of not being Semites. But the Arabs are Semites. Look! It has altered facts. A Semite is now a Jew, and the Arab is not a Semite anymore. It says Arabs are against Semites; but Arabs are themselves Semites; how can they be against themselves? No one is defending the Arabs anymore. Arabs have huge resources. They are a great nation. The United States should be courting Arabs from the Ocean to the Gulf. We have the Suez Canal, Bab el-Mendeb, Gibraltar [as heard], the Gulf of Sidra, the Mediterranean. We are the knot of communications; we have Hormuz. We are the knot of communications between Asia, Europe, and the United States. We are in the region; it must ask permission to cross. [words indistinct] so that it may be able to cross this area. If we say no, it must stop crossing. We can [word indistinct] the United States with our money, with our geographical position. We have the eternal Nile, the Tigris and Euphrates, the great man-made river; we have oil, gas, our strategic position. We are the ones that should use these weapons so that it submits to us. [words indistinct] with our oil, our money.

But those who have surrendered, collaborated, given their oil to the United States, enslaved the Arab nation with Arab oil and enabled Zionism to—well, their time has finished. [sentence as heard] This is the era of the masses. The biggest, iron-clad parties have fallen before the masses in East Europe, the Soviet empire, everywhere. We predicted this. We are the prophets of this time, and we are the ones who will inherit the earth, because we are meek. This earth will be inherited by the meek. As for empires, they do not last. [passage omitted] People are like ants and mosquitoes that would (?cut) and fight the United States without missiles or fleets. We are grains of sand that would enter into every U.S. instrument and damage it.

Brothers, I would like to cite what was said by President Hafiz [al-Asad] on 8 March. He said: I am seeing the formation of blocs between other strong nations at a time of fragmentation of a weak Arab nation. Strong nations, nuclear nations have said: We cannot live on our own, only in blocs. Britain, a nuclear state; France, a nuclear state; Germany, a great economic power; Italy, whose income is bigger than that of all the incomes of the Arab countries put together; they all said: We cannot live in this century except in one European state.

This is a fact, as my brother, President Hafiz al-Asad said. The formation of blocs between other strong nations coincides with the fragmentation of a weak Arab nation. He also said: The situation of the Arab nation is that of a nation that does not see the dangers surrounding it and looming over it. [passage omitted]

The statements by President Hafiz al-Asad result from bitter experience. If this was said by an inexperienced person, I would say it is one-upmanship, but this comes from bitter experience. Syria has been beset by isolation, siege, steadfastness, the enemy, enemies, and it has drawn this lesson. Even if we do not want dignity or pride, we should unite to eat bread. Even those who do not need dignity now want bread. [passage omitted]

If this nation had utilized its resources, it would have become a master on earth. But our God made us blind, and we did not do anything regarding these resources. Now there is a pressing need. What I have been saying for the past 20 years is now a fact. All Arabs now feel unity has become a necessity. If the enemy takes one part from us, he will take another. What my brother eats for lunch, I have for dinner. This is a fact. We said Palestine will be taken by the Jews; Palestine, Palestine. Then there was destruction in Lebanon, destruction in Syria, destruction in Egypt, Iraq, and Tunisia. Provocation against Libya, and the rest. Why? Because the enemy was able to take a part of the Arab homeland. If the United States occupied Libya, Libya would fall. We may die as martyrs and record a glorious page. The threat would be to the Arab nation, however, which is keeping quiet. It thinks if it loses Libya, it would be able to live in security. That would be the end. I would say, brothers, if we are attacked, we must be prepared to destroy the whole map. If the attack is extensive, we will extend the

reaction throughout the world. There will be no peace, reason, negotiations; that would be it. [chanting]

Brothers, I do not want to go on from long after this brilliant festive event, which was made more brilliant by the wonderful exercises of the Egyptian, Syrian, and Libyan pilots. They gave the day, the 20th anniversary of evacuation, its due; its Arab due. It is an Arab and pan-Arab anniversary.

Brothers, as I said at the beginning, the truth triumphed. The truth regarding this people being one and a united nation. At the time of the worst conditions between us and Egypt, President Husni [Mubarak] did not let Egypt be used by the United States, the enemy, or the other sides. He did not permit Arab territory to be used against other Arab territories.

Before attacking us in 1986, the United States put pressure on Egypt, and asked President Husni to allow it to use Egypt. He said that to allow Egypt to be used against Libya is an impossibility. At that time, we had no telephone or personal contacts; nor was there a fraternal and familial air between us, as there is now. We were swearing at each other at the time. Superficially, one expected that either would aid an attack against the other. However, the truth is that we are brothers, a united nation, a united family, and Americans cannot come between us. If we quarrelled yesterday, we make up today. All differences go with the wind; what remains is the Arab nation and the reality of its unity. Indeed, this is the Arab perception, strategic perception, historical perception, which perceives further than immediate differences. These differences will disappear. But what would be our state, future, and history if the United States used Egypt against Libya. This long-term perception must be appreciated by the whole nation, not just Libyans.

Brothers, while under siege on the frontline, Syria has never abandoned any confrontation. Whenever it hears there is a confrontation between Libya and the enemies, Syria would announce all its resources are at our disposal. [passage omitted]

In addition to the meeting between Libya and Egypt, which was [word indistinct] the artificial borders created by the Italians and the British between the sons of the same people, and this meeting between Syria and Egypt, which—God willing—will be repeated in the future so things return to their normal course, and Syria and Egypt will take the initiative, Zine El Abidine announced a Maghreb without borders, and this call triumphed in the Maghreb. Umar al-Bashir yesterday said that Arabs, from the ocean to the Gulf, may enter Sudan with personal identity cards. [passage omitted]

It made people like Umar al-Bashir and Zine el Abidine Bel Ali join this cortege. As for President Hafiz and President Husani, the only thing I can say is, they are combatants, pilots, officers, militarymen, soldiers, and also politicians, leaders. They are in fact combatants in the forward trench against Zionism, against imperialism,

for the cause of this nation. [applause] I cannot add anything else to their qualifications.

I express my joy—and I believe it is the joy of all Arabs, especially Libyans—whose happiness and pride is, today, boundless. I now see the sons of the nation together in one base, and one cannot tell one from another. I have greeted Egyptian airmen, thinking they were Libyans. They said: No, we are the Egyptian squadron. You cannot tell an Egyptian from a Libyan, from a Syrian. [applause] The big formations that flew past us were a mixture of Syrian and Libyan pilots. This situation today is very emotional. It symbolizes the unity of this nation, and tells the world the nation is bigger than regionalism, borders, and their plots, that this is one nation which has decided to trace its road for unity. [passage omitted]

The hoisting of an Israeli flag in Egypt may be meant to isolate Egypt, the Arab nation, to fragment the Arab nation. This is painful, a bitter potion, but we must overcome it, contain it. The nation is bigger than an Israeli flag, bigger than an Israeli embassy. This will be removed with the removal of the aggression [applause] and the base of aggression; when this nation is strong. We declare our right to defend ourselves. I do not believe, however, that the Zionist or U.S. enemy will accept peace. I fear we will find ourselves beating a dead horse concerning the question of peace. But it is our right to try, to make our plans for the future.

Notwithstanding other military and political considerations, this nation has the right to link the Nile with the great man-made river, as well as the Tigris and the Euphrates, and to merge Sudan's potentials with those of Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, and Iraq, and to make out of them bread. All right, they [as heard] said that we should not produce the atom; we said let us grow maize instead. But they said the latter is also of strategic value [words indistinct] a raspberry to you. You wanted to ban us from having the atom and ban us even from growing corn. Well, you cannot make us your own harem. Do you think we are married to you, or what? They say we should not grow maize. They cannot say this to us. You cannot even impose something on your own wife. You cannot even impose what you like upon your own wife according to personal law.

How then can the United States impose anything on the Arab nation? Even if we were married, it still could not impose anything on us. Let us go to the International Court of Justice. Like a man and wife, if the former commits an injustice against her, she goes to the court, does she not? It said you should not have the atom, only Israel can have it. We asked: Can we grow corn instead? It said: No, corn is also a strategic commodity. You would not go hungry and thereby would not need U.S. wheat, and U.S. hegemony [words indistinct]. So what can one do? We have to blow it a raspberry if it is going to ban us even from growing corn. We will grow corn, and could even have an atomic plant, because they are not banned. Let anyone do whatever he wants? If the

world has gone mad, let us all be mad. If the world wants to sit at a roundtable, we will then sit down at it as logical and civilized people. Forward, the struggle continues.

Morocco

King Receives UN Secretary General 25 Mar

LD2503210590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, today at noon at the Royal Court in Rabat.

The tete-a-tete talks lasted approximately one hour.

UN Chief Makes Statement, Departs

LD2503211790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] The UN secretary general left Morocco this evening after a visit to our country.

In Rabat-Sale airport the UN secretary general made a statement in which he expressed his satisfaction with the results of the talks which he held with His Majesty King Hassan II. The talks were not restricted to the Sahara issue; they also included the issues of mutual interest. He pointed out that the talks held were basically on two levels, the first of which was the talks with His Majesty the King and the second was the talks which were held beforehand between his close aides and some Moroccan officials. He pointed out that these talks were necessary and useful.

Among the things said by the UN secretary general:

[Begin Perez de Cuellar recording, in French] First of all, I would like to express my gratitude as well as that of my associates for the welcoming afforded us in the warm reception. We held discussions on two levels with the experts of the Moroccan Government. This morning we had the honor of being received by His Majesty. We particularly discussed the matters you know and also other topics of mutual interest to Morocco and the United Nations. Regarding the matter of the Western Sahara we had...[incomplete sentence as heard] [end recording]

[Announcer] A number of questions were put by the press, in particular about organizing the referendum, the date on which it could take place, and how it will be financed.

In his replies, the UN secretary general stressed that the organization of a referendum is not an easy matter. He expressed his hopes that the process of the referendum would be hastened. At the same time, he said that he does not approve of short cuts, as the process should take place on a step-by-step basis.

As for the date of the referendum, and whether it would take place before the end of the extension period of the current Moroccan parliament, he answered by saying that he wishes this referendum could be held tomorrow, but the process needs water-tight and accurate preparations.

As for financing the referendum by the United Nations, The UN secretary general said that the UN pays great attention to the solution of this problem, and that there are no financial problems in financing the referendum.

The UN secretary general was seen off by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Driss Slaoui, Moroccan permanent representative to the United Nations; and other dignitaries.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia

LD2603140690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued the following statement:

The Governments of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Namibia decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at the level of ambassadors from today, Monday, 26 March 1990, in a mutual desire to consolidate and intensify the ties of friendship and cooperation which link the peoples of Morocco and Namibia. Ambassadors will be exchanged at a date to be determined later by a mutual agreement.

Sudan

Ethiopian Rebel OLF To Free Captured Cubans

EA2703114090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27th March (SUNA)—The Ethiopian dissident Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) has agreed to set free six Cubans it has captured in recent fighting with the Ethiopian Government Army at Asosa on Ethiopia's western border, declared the foreign minister and acting official spokesman, 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul.

Sahlul said in a press statement he issued Monday [27 March] that the OLF agreed to free the Cubans in response to intensified good offices and contacts made with the front by the Sudanese Government, whose mediation was sought by several states including North Yemen, Egypt, the PLO and the secretary-general of the OAU. The Yemeni president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, has made an appeal for mediation by Sudan for the release of the Cuban captives in a telephone call with Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, the spokesman said.

The Sudanese Government made its successful mediation with OLF in pursuance of its international commitment with the UN and the Nonaligned Movement, and in observance of humanitarian consideration and appeals by several governments.

The Sudanese Government has undertaken this mission in observance of all these considerations although it has received information that the six Cubans extended medical assistance to the rebel SPLA in the military operations zones, a matter that could bring them under the Sudanese law, the spokesman said.

We hope that the concerned states in this part of the African Continent will show more sincerity and willing for establishing constructive co-operation for reaching peace in the region and keeping it away from foreign disputes and interventions, and for prevalence of security and stability, and mobilisations of the resources of its peoples for achievement of development and stability, the statement by Sahlul read.

Conference for Libyan Integration Begins 24 Mar

EA2503160890 Khartoum SUNA in French 0909 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 March (SUNA)—The popular forces conference for the integration of Sudan and Libya began work on Saturday [24 March] by examining the various aspects of the project for Sudanese-Libyan integration.

Mr. Michael Mario, chairman of the Salvation Committee in Upper Nile Province (southern Sudan), confirmed in his speech the support of the popular committees in the province for integration.

Dr. Sulayman Sa'id Ahmad, president of the farmers' union, also addressed the conference, stressing that the integration charter would prepare the ground for African and global Arab unity.

On the other hand, General Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim, governor of Darfur Province, stressed that integration between Sudan and Libya had already begun. Before that declaration, he referred to the very close relations between Darfur Province (western Sudan) and Libya, adding that this integration had now reached the national level.

Furthermore, Mrs. Kathera Yasin, member of the women's conference, praised the integration project, urging the need to support it.

Similarly, Police General Maki Hasan Abbo addressed the conference, stressing the importance of informing people of the objectives of integration.

Mrs. Fatima Aligemi, member of the Libyan popular delegation, also made a speech on behalf of the delegation, indicating that this conference reflected the real power of the people, and constituted a first stage towards global Arab unity.

RCC Members Address Conference

EA2503181590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Excerpts] This morning, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Revolution Command Council [RCC] deputy chairman, addressed the opening session of the popular forces conference for integration between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The session was also addressed by Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, RCC member and chairman of the political committee.

Brig. Hasan said: We meet within the framework of the dialogue on an important issue which affects all citizens. He said that the unity of the Arab nation is the will of the masses, from the ocean to the Gulf. It is the goal of a long struggle, which has been the [word indistinct] of this nation for liberation. [passage omitted]

Brig. 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan stressed that the present time in the world is a time for the cohesion of peoples and larger entities. He stressed that the Arab nation is a big nation. He stressed that the integration scheme would take into account all previous successes or failures. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Chief Arrives 25 Mar

EA2503221890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Summary From Poor Reception] This evening, Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September Revolution, minister of defense [as heard], and commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Sudan heading a delegation to attend the conference of the popular forces on integration between Sudan and Libya.

Praises Integration Project

EA2603140090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0915 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 26 March (SUNA)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, member of the historic leadership of 1 September, defense minister, and commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Khartoum on Sunday evening to participate in the closing session of the conference of the popular forces, which is to end its work on Monday.

The Libyan official praised the Sudanese initiative for the integration of the two countries. He described the project as a strategic initiative, reckoning that it would lead to the unification of the Arab nation.

Furthermore, Col. Yunis said that what had taken place during the conference was of interest to the masses of the Arab nation from the Gulf to the Ocean (Atlantic), in particular the Libyan and Sudanese peoples. He added that the whole Arab nation well knew the importance of unification, which is the nature of our times.

Col. Yunis was welcomed at the airport by Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, members of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum.

Jabir Arrives 26 Mar

LD2603173890 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Rabie [March] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir arrived in Khartoum yesterday on a visit to sisterly Sudan.

Staff General Adam, member of the Revolution Command Council, received him at the airport. Also participation in this welcome Col. Khalifa Yunis, member of this Council and the reporter of the National Dialogue Conference, Lieutenant-Colonel al-Tayyib Muhammad, minister of the Presidium affairs, ministers of foreign affairs, industry, trade and education, the ambassador of Sudan in Great al-Jamahiriyah and secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum.

On arriving in Khartoum, Col. Jabir made comments to say that he was pleased to be entrusted by the leader of the revolution to attend the people's forces congress on its conclusion. At this congress, he added, discussions were held on whatever was of concern to the masses of our people from the Atlantic to the Gulf especially the masses of our people in Sudan and Great al-Jamahiriyah. What was a song in our ears was that this initiative was made from sisterly Sudan and through the Revolution Command Council in Sudan. He added that these people were quite aware of the aspirations of their nation and the requirements of this era, apart from their understanding in a clear manner of the course of conflict in our modern times. The world is now one of blocs where small nations can have no presence. Since [words indistinct] we have to think seriously to surmount this dangerous situation.

He continued that every honest person in our nation was aware of this tendency, viz, the one of Arab unity because it was the landmark of this era.

He concluded that on behalf of the leader of the revolution and the rank and file masses of Great al-Jamahiriyah. He hailed this great initiative on the part of the leadership and masses of the Sudanese people and all its forces. They were determined to take this Arab initiative and the strategic one rescuing our nation from disintegration.

Meets People's Committees

LD2603174190 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Rabi' [March] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir

received yesterday in Khartoum the coordinators of the Sudanese people's committees in the capital Khartoum and provinces.

Al-Bashir Returns From Libya

EA2503220890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Summary From Poor Reception] Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has returned to the country today after attending celebrations in Libya marking the 20th anniversary of the evacuation of British troops from that country.

Official Denies Change in Refugee Policy

EA2403214190 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 March (SUNA)—Refugees Commissioner 'Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim has criticised the erroneous interpretation, circulated by some foreign mass media, to the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry recently on Sudan's incapability to host new more refugees.

Speaking to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" published today, Sirr al-Khatim explained that the foreign mass media had erroneously interpreted the statement in order to give the impression that Sudan has changed its policy towards the refugees. He pointed that, on the contrary, the statement simply referred to Sudan's current crucial circumstances and the increased burden it has been suffering from due to the presence of huge numbers of refugees inside its territories.

It is worth noting that Sudan is currently hosting more than one million refugees, 750,000 of them are from Ethiopia only.

BBC Reports on Juba Shelling Denied

EA2203125590 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1449 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has denied reports issued by the BBC on outlaws' recently shelling Juba town. His excellency said the reports were untrue and that what was happening there was no more than normal skirmishes mounted by the outlaws and resisted by the Armed Forces. He explained that the purpose of such reports was to confuse the outside world, adding that correspondents of these organs could visit the south and obtain the correct information.

Brig. Kassiano confirmed that the Armed Forces would score more (?victories) in future against the scattered remnants of rebellion in the south. He said the Armed Forces were in full control of the situation in Equatoria. He praised, in this respect, the Armed Forces' recent victories in Yei, Rumbek and [word indistinct]. His

excellency confirmed that Equatoria's citizens were capable of protecting their region and that the people's defense forces were currently being trained to enable them to perform their required role.

Tunisia

Islamic Threats Made Against U.S., Other Embassies

*LD2603161290 Paris International Service
in French 1230 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Threats against the staff at several embassies in Tunisia: The Muslim Fundamentalist Movement, the Islamic Vengeance Organization, and Nahdah have announced that they want, I quote, to annihilate those who betray Islam and those who are hostile to the objectives of the Palestinians. The threats hang indiscriminately over the embassies of the United States, Turkey, the Netherlands, Japan, and Yugoslavia and also the Tunisian education minister.

Ties Established With Namibia

*LD2403111390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement:

In order to consolidate the existing fraternal ties between their two peoples, the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the Government of the Republic of Namibia decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Escapes 12 Mar Assassination Attempt

*LD2603183590 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Casablanca, 26 Mar (MAP)—Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the so-called SADR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic], escaped an assassination

attempt near Tindouf in western Algeria on 12 March, the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH reports today, Monday, in its edition published in Casablanca.

The paper, which cites informed sources in Paris, specifies that 28 people, including six members of the personal guard of Abdelaziz and three senior military security officers, were arrested by the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] leadership following these events.

This assassination attempt took place on 12 March, shortly before midnight, at the exit of one of the Polisario camps near Tindouf. Abdelaziz's vehicle was about to leave the camp when he came under the fire of automatic weapons from an observation post, says the paper.

Polisario Representative on Morocco's Stance

*LD2603182790 Paris International Service in French
1230 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] Today's event: The stay of Javier Perez de Cuellar in the camps in Tindouf in the Western Sahara and his meeting with the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic president, Mohamed Abdelaziz. [passage omitted]

The Saharan side is making threats; certainly, there is a truce for the time being, but that might not last. This was explained by Baba Sayed, the Polisario representative in Paris:

[Begin Sayed recording] In New York a few weeks ago, Perez de Cuellar asked us to observe a truce and he gave us to understand that the United Nations would do everything possible to persuade Morocco to resume the direct negotiations without delay, very soon. In spite of all the many gestures we had agreed to, Morocco on the other hand has up till now given nothing, has demonstrated nothing which can give us hope that it too is determined to find a negotiated solution to this problem. [end recording]

Kuwait

Observance of Ramadan To Begin 27 March

LD2603202990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1939 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Monday said that it would observe the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan as of tomorrow (Tuesday) March 27, it was officially announced.

Saudi Arabia

Border Agreement With Oman Praised as Model

JN2403160090 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
22 Mar 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Border Agreement Between the Kingdom and Oman"]

[Text] The problem of demarcation of borders between states is an old one, and it is probably one of the most explosive problems particularly in the post World War II era. Analysts are almost certain that this problem was the reason behind many of the wars that erupted among states in the first half of this century. However, border problems among the Gulf Arab states have never reached the point of an explosion to threaten the start of a major war. This is due to the distinguished and special relations among the states in the region and the strong historical, cultural, religious, and social ties that help avert any conflict. More importantly, there are wise leaders who have the resources and qualifications to help contain any dispute and remove any cause of tension.

Since its establishment by King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God bless his soul, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been paying great attention to the issue of good neighborliness. It always seeks to build strong ties with its neighbors and strong and solid bilateral relations. It also helps in establishing the principle of good neighborliness among all states in the region. Despite the fact that the Kingdom has borders with more than one Arab state, we have never heard of disputes or tension between the Kingdom and any of its neighbors. When it comes to the issue of borders, the Kingdom, with the farsightedness and wisdom characterizing its leaders, always resorts to brotherly dialogue.

The agreement on the international border between the Kingdom and Oman—signed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and his brother, Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id—came to entrench this brotherly and peaceful course adopted by the Kingdom in its dealings with its neighbors.

By adopting this method in dealing with its neighbors, the Kingdom is taking into account the supreme strategic Arab interests and the need to face the plot of the enemies, who conspire to preoccupy the states in the

region with bilateral disputes and marginal issues and squander the nation's power and resources.

We, on our part, urge all Arab states to follow the Kingdom's example in settling any border question through brotherly dialogue so that the nation can pay attention to building its future in security and stability, and so that we can marshal all of our resources to face the external challenges imposed on us. Only then, God willing, will victory be ours. Let us take guidance from the holy Koranic verse: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves.

Royal Court Announces Beginning of Ramadan

LD2603215490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Excerpt] In a statement issued tonight, the Royal Court announced that it has been confirmed that the blessed month of Ramadan starts tonight, the evening before Tuesday [27 March]. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Soldiers Fired Upon During Student Demonstration

EA2503174490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] A source at the Interior Ministry has made the following statement:

Yesterday, a group of students in the town of Al Mukalla held a peaceful demonstration to put forward some demands. During the demonstration, some anti-democratic elements infiltrated the students' ranks and carried out violent acts, including the firing of bullets from a revolver at guard soldiers at one of the public utilities. This led to the serious wounding of the soldier, 'Umar Salim Ba Harshan, in the chest.

Although the soldier fell bleeding, the other soldiers did not respond. The situation was calmed and the security organs and police behaved in a responsible manner. They took no action against the demonstration, out of their belief that violent acts and involvement in rioting and firing at soldiers guarding security and stability are not the acts of students, but are carried out by infiltrators and antidemocratic elements, who are against political and economic reform and the achievement of Yemeni unity.

Acts such as these reflect the bankruptcy of the forces behind them, but they will not divert the masses of the Yemeni people and their patriotic forces and all honorable men from proceeding along this road. On the contrary, these acts will increase their determination to continue the march along the same road, the road of the people, the road of progress, unity, democracy, and peace.

The source added that some of the elements contributing to the (?rioting) had been detained. They are not students, but infiltrators. Legal measures will be taken

against them. The source appealed to the citizens to be aware of this operation, which aims to damage the security and stability of the people and divert the march of democracy, reform, and the achievement of Yemeni unity, the hope of our [word indistinct] people.

We assure the citizens of their right to exercise their right to express their views without resorting to violence, chaos, and damaging public and private property. This is what has been defined by the program for political, economic, and social reform. We are certain that the masses will stand on the side of the party in its struggle for political, economic, and social reform, and the march towards democracy and Yemeni unity, against the enemies of democracy, unity, and political reform.

One Seriously Wounded

AB2503200690 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT
25 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Aden, March 25 (AFP)—A South Yemen soldier was shot and seriously wounded during a demonstration of Islamic students in Al Mokalla, 628 kilometers (390 miles) east of here, the Interior Ministry said Sunday. [passage omitted]

It was not immediately clear what the students were demanding, but analysts noted that several hundred young Islamic militants demonstrated here last Thursday [22 March] to protest against co-education and to demand more religious instruction. Witnesses said police on Thursday used water cannon to disperse male and female secondary school students, who also insisted on an end to the compulsory teaching of Marxism in South Yemen, which is ruled by the Marxist-Leninist Yemen Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Party Condemns 'Criminal Act'

EA2503213990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] The party organization in the Governorate of Hadramawt [includes Al Mukalla] has condemned the criminal act carried out by some rejected and dark elements opposed to the glorious September and October revolutions, who fired at the security soldier 'Umar Salim Ba Harshan, hitting him directly, following which he was taken to the hospital. These elements exploited the peaceful demonstration of students of Al Mukalla Secondary School.

In its final statement issued on the proceedings of its 11th ordinary session held this morning under the chairmanship of brother Ahmad Abdallah al-Majidr, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization in the Governorate of Hadramawt, with brother Dr. Salim 'Umar Bukayr, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee attending, the committee of the party organization said that those malicious forces had failed by their action to attain their goals of inciting the security men and pushing them to commit irresponsible acts. Indeed, the

soldiers denied them the opportunity to destabilize security and create a chaotic situation.

The statement appealed to all citizens, parents, and students to be vigilant and not permit any forces to exploit student and popular demands, or to fulfill their plans and malicious objectives.

YAR

Turkish Minister of State Arrives on Visit

JN2503134090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brother Mehmet Kececiler, Turkish minister of state, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a brief visit to our country, during which he will deliver a written message to the brother leader and president, Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih, from Turkish President Turgut Ozal. [passage omitted]

Discusses Ties With Salih

JN2603132890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] At noon today, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, received brother Mehmet Kececiler, Turkish state minister, now visiting our country. They reviewed bilateral ties and ways to intensify these ties in the interest of the Yemeni and Turkish peoples.

The minister gave the prime minister an invitation from his Turkish counterpart to visit Turkey. The prime minister accepted the invitation, a date for which is to be set later.

The meeting was attended by brother Ahmad al-Muhanni, petroleum and mineral wealth minister, and the Turkish ambassador in Sanaa.

The Turkish minister also called on brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, president of the Central Planning authority, and member of the Standing Committee. They explored avenues to deepen bilateral economic and development ties.

President Receives Egyptian Prime Minister

JN2503134390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office today Brother Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of fraternal Egypt, and members of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the second session of the Higher Yemeni-Egyptian Joint Committee, currently held in Sanaa.

During the meeting, the leader president received a message from his brother, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Press Comments on U.S. Resolution on Jerusalem

JN2603110990 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT
 26 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 26, INA—Iraqi newspapers today strongly attacked the American irresponsible behaviour by considering the holy city of al-Quds [Jerusalem] as a unified capital for the Zionist entity. The Iraqi dailies AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QUD-
 ISIYAH and AL-IRAQ were unanimous in their articles and editorials of today that the grave decision adopted by the U.S. Senate represents a flagrant challenge to the international legitimacy and a clear-cut violation to the international decisions on Al-Quds.

AL-THAWRAH daily editorially said that the United States once more declared its disrespect of the Arab nation's historic and legitimate right and said that the American behaviour embodies the influential Zionist lobby on American policy and especially its legislative power. The daily further said that the American behaviour discloses the fact that the United States has started following big changes in the international situation behaving in a way that harms the Arab nation, and jeopardizing its security and legitimate interest. It added that the decision of the American Senate did not only contradict the decisions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly toward al-Quds that also contradicted all American allegations on working to achieve peace in the region. It pointed out that the American decision indicates that the United States does not want peace in the region but rather work to blow up all efforts in this respect.

AL-THAWRAH daily stressed that the American decision could not be isolated from recent statements by American officials which confirmed that the Zionist entity now occupies a distinguished position among the allies of the United States. The daily said that the U.S.-Zionist relations would witness further development during the next stage contrary to the analysis which says that the Zionist entity would lose its position in the American strategy as a result to the recent international changes. The Iraqi daily further expounded that the U.S. Senate decision came in the wake of the open American backing to the Soviet Jews immigration to occupied Palestine and the intensified armament backing to the Zionist entity. The daily said that these realities confirm the remarks of President Saddam Husayn at the opening of Amman summit of the Arab Cooperation Council that American behaviours and statements toward pan-Arab security and rights of the Palestinian peoples should arouse concern and vigilance by the Arabs. It added that the American decision and behaviours should instigate concern and vigilance by the Arabs and motivate them to consolidate solidarity and cooperation and adopting an effective unified stand for boosting the pre-requisites of pan-Arab security, preserve the Arab nation rights and interests and force its enemies to reconsider any decision they adopt on harming and threatening the legitimate Arab right.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, denouncing the American Senate decision, called upon the Arabs to adopt a unified strategy to confront the American policy bias to the Zionist entity and work with all means to confront the all-out American backing to this entity. The daily stressed that American backing to the Zionist entity was not after the security of a certain Arab country but rather after the entire pan-Arab security pointing out that the decision of the American senate to consider al-Quds as a capital to the Zionist entity was a flagrant challenge to the international will in general and the Arab and Islamic will in particular.

AL-JUMHURIYAH further said that the American decision highlighted the official American move behind the Zionist schemes and objectives even if they contradicted with American interests and the decisions of the Security Council over al-Quds. It added that the decision came only to confirm the discrediting of the credibility of the United States as a result to its continued support of the Zionist terroristic and expansionist schemes and also its continued disregard of the Zionist violation of human rights and the war of annihilation against the Palestinian people. The daily referred to President Husayn remarks at Amman summit that the Arabs should employ all means of pressure to confront the American stance and the necessity of materializing a unified political and military Arab strategy so that the Arab voice would be effective at international fora.

AL-JUMHURIYAH pointed out that Arab strategy should not only encounter the American bias but encounter any international party that would support and implement the American decision through moving their embassies to the occupied Arab city of al-Quds. It referred to President Husayn confirmations that the best means for facing the American open bias was through severing Arab diplomatic relations with any state that moves its embassy to occupied al-Quds. AL-JUMHURIYAH called for speeding up the convocation of an Arab summit to discuss this issue and for laying down bases of an Arab strategy to deter the deterioration entailing this suspicious attack against the Arab nation which is carried out in the absence of the international balance as a result to the recent changes in Eastern Europe, the changes that led to boosting American influence in playing an oppressive role against aspirations of world peoples struggling for peace and freedom.

AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad described the American decision as another glowing evidence of the United States clear animosity toward the Arab nation and its central issue of Palestine. The daily said that the decision of American Senate constitutes a flagrant challenge to the international will and legitimacy and all other international organizations in addition to its being a clear-cut challenge to the feelings of the Arab nation in a way pushing the Zionist colonialist policy to further stages of consecrating occupation and expanding work for Judaizing al-Quds. AL-QADISIYAH strongly denounced the American Senate decision and said that this decision which was imposed by the well-known

Zionist program would not stamp out the pure Arab character of al-Quds. It added that the grave consequences of this decision and its passive indications would be a source of strong condemnation by all free people of the world who stand alongside the Arab right in Palestine and its capital al-Quds.

AL-'IRAQ daily editorially lashed out at the American decision and considered it a grave challenge to the Islamic world and the Arab nation and embodied the historic hatred harboured by the United States against the Arab nation. The daily said the world is called today to confirm that there should be a respect to the international will and legitimacy in a way contributing to preserving balance in the international relations and ethical course. The daily went on saying that the "cold reply" made by President Bush in rejecting the decision of Senate as arousing suspicions and inquires on the reality of American stand vis-a-vis issues of the region especially the Palestine issues, the peace process in the Arab Gulf and the no-war, no-peace situation between Iraq and Iran. It added that the U.S. Administration should understand that any American change towards these issues would have grave impacts on the region. The daily warned against the consequences of the American decision which is governed by the trends of the Zionist lobby and said that the Arabs should adopt a unified effective stand towards this new American challenge.

Foreign Ministry Statement

JN2603123690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Iraq today denounced the resolution issued by the U.S. Senate acknowledging the holy city of Jerusalem as the united capital of the Zionist entity. It considered the resolution as void and as negligent of the rights of the Palestinian and Arab people. This came in a statement today by the official spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. Following is the text of the statement:

The official spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has made the following statement regarding the resolution issued by the U.S. Senate on the holy city of Jerusalem:

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry denounces the U.S. Senate's resolution acknowledging the holy city of Jerusalem as the united capital of the Zionist entity and considers it

void. It also considers the resolution negligent of the rights of the Palestinian and Arab people, a challenge to the feelings of the entire Islamic world that conflicts with international law and legitimacy, and a blatant violation of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the UN General Assembly concerning the holy city of Jerusalem.

Iraq calls on all countries to denounce and condemn this resolution.

'Aziz Confers With PLO's 'Arafat on Intifadah

JN2503185690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT
25 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who is visiting Iraq.

They discussed the latest Arab and international developments in the Palestine question and the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories. They also discussed the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and the escalation of the Palestinian intifadah against the occupation forces.

The meeting was attended by the deputy chief of the Arab liberation movements bureau at the Revolution Command Council, the head of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry, PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Mauritanian Envoy Arrives With Message for Saddam

JN2703052890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2107 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and the personal envoy of President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania, to President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad this evening.

The Mauritanian envoy told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that he carries an oral message for President Saddam Husayn from President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya concerning fraternal bilateral relations.

Labor Party Considering Move for Early Elections*TA2703072290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] Labor Party leaders are toying with the idea of supporting a motion calling for early elections if the efforts to set up a government led by Shim'on Peres are deadlocked. This is reported by our political correspondent, Arye Golan. Alignment officials point out that a similar notion has been raised by the National Religious Party, and this also is the way Tehiya and others are leaning. Some of the participants in the Alignment consultations nevertheless said they had not yet totally despaired of the chances to set up a government but that, in any event, a minority government will not be presented to the Knesset tomorrow.

Our correspondent points out if 61 Knesset members support the motion of bringing elections forward and disbanding the Knesset, procedures for the establishment of a new government are terminated at once.

Shamir Opposes Move*TA2703114490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the Likud prefers to set up a government rather than conduct early elections. He said elections should not be conducted at such short intervals; therefore the Likud must continue its efforts to form a government under his leadership. Yitzhaq Shamir made these remarks in a talk with reporters during a tour of the Agritech 90 agricultural fair in Tel Aviv. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from there:

[Begin recording] [Raz] [passage omitted] Minister Hammer has announced he is renewing the initiative to set up a unity government. Will you support such a move?

[Shamir] If Minister Hammer will want to discuss such an initiative with us, I always will be prepared to hear how he thinks he can implement it. We will then see.

[Raz] What about the talk, even heard in the Alignment, about the need to conduct early elections?

[Shamir] I believe that derives from the difficulties in setting up a government. That is not what they were striving for when they presented the no-confidence motion. It is the outcome of the difficulties that have arisen. I therefore do not take the initiative too seriously.

[Raz] Would the Likud support it?

[Shamir] We currently prefer to be the ones to set up a government. I do not think it is healthy for a country to conduct elections at such short intervals. The latest elections were conducted about 18 months ago. We should conduct elections once in four years. That is the normal situation, and we should aspire to it.

[Raz] What is your forecast about how this crisis will end?

[Shamir] The crisis can end with the party with the best chances of forming a government.

[Raz] Thank you. [end recording]

No Decision on Elections*TA2703111490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] The Alignment negotiating team has said that so far, nothing has been decided regarding early elections. The Alignment is convinced of its ability to form a government headed by Shim'on Peres. Earlier, it was reported Labor Party leaders entertained the idea of supporting early elections if their endeavors to set up an Alignment-led government are stalemated. Our correspondent was told this motion was made by a handful of participants in a consultation that took place in the Alignment this morning. In any event, it appears the Alignment will not present a minority government to the Knesset tomorrow.

Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin has said Rabbi Schach's remarks yesterday did not put an end to Shim'on Peres' chances to form a government, and that the negotiations with potential partners are continuing. [passage omitted]

Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer is resuming meetings aimed at forming a national unity government. According to him, the chances of achieving this goal increased greatly after it became clear that only such a government will be able to attain understanding between the parties on the future of the peace process and immigrant absorption. Minister Hammer added that he does not rule out the possibility that such a government would exist for an interim period and that the parties would agree in advance on a desirable election date, such as November, for instance. This was reported by our correspondents, Ze'ev Kohen and Shlomo Raz.

Ultraorthodox Spiritual Leader Delivers Address*TA2603195290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Addressing thousands of members of the ultra-orthodox community who awaited his word at Yad Eliyahu stadium tonight, Rabbi Schach [spiritual leader of the Degel Hatora and SHAS, Torah Observing Sephardim, parties] said he will not talk politics. The bulk of his speech was dedicated to the miracle of Jewish survival, despite the many hardships to which our people have been subject. Even now, he said, Israel is a solitary lamb among 70 wolves. What has sustained the Jewish people throughout the generations has been the Jewish tradition and the Torah, the laws of which have been strictly observed by the Jews.

Rabbi Schach lashed out against Western influences, outside truisms, and the use of English, in his words. He

glorified the importance of the Sabbath and attacked the secular society whose members do not observe the religious laws; briefly, he leveled criticism at the Alignment, too.

Although Rabbi Schach did not explicitly rule out coalition with the Alignment, he stated Alignment people do not respect Judaism. No other party was mentioned in the rabbi's speech.

Degel Hatora Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Ravitz said Rabbi Schach's remarks imply his party should join the Likud. According to him, Rabbi Schach's remarks contained harsh criticism of what the Alignment represents from the education point of view. The criticism was cultural, rather than political. On the political issue, Rabbi Schach reiterated his stand against retaining territories [as heard].

SHAS MK Ya'ir Levi has said Rabbi Schach's remarks on the dissociation from tradition and Judaism contained no implications regarding any political parties whatsoever. According to him, SHAS and Degel Hatora will make future political moves together.

Politicians 'Somewhat Baffled'

TA2703071890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 27 Mar 90 p 1

[By political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpt] The coalition deadlock remained unresolved last night, following a much-awaited speech by veteran Rabbi Elie'zer Schach, with both Labour and Likud holding the support of 60 Knesset members.

The political system, which held its breath to hear what the 97-year-old rabbi would say about which party should form the next government, remained somewhat baffled after the speech.

The hopes of Labour party leaders that Schach might break the tie and enable either Shas [Torah Observing Sephardim] or Degel Hatora to join Labour in coalition appeared to have been thwarted, whereas Likud leaders rejoiced, taking Schach's criticism of Labour as a clear indication that Shas and Degel must stick with the Likud.

Labour is hoping that the vagueness and unclarity of Schach's speech last night. Religious circles explained yesterday that since Schach did not give a clear halachic ruling as to what action Shas and Degel Hatora should take, Shas members—already split between Labour and Likud—may interpret the speech differently.

Some may interpret the speech to mean they should support the Likud, while others may think it enables them to support Labour.

Labour circles are hoping that one or more Shas MKs [Knesset members] will either vote confidence in a coalition led by Shim'on Peres or at least abstain.

Likud leaders were satisfied that Schach did not change his position on Shas and Degel supporting a Likud coalition, thereby leaving Peres unable to break the 60-60 tie and form a government.

"There is no doubt that Schach's statement about Labour's being cut off from the Tora and tradition means that Shas and Degel must stick with Likud," senior Likud circles said yesterday.

Likud circles said that in the wake of Schach's speech, Agudat Yisra'el may move over to the Likud, following pressure in the haredi [Jewish ultraorthodox] community.

Labour leaders, for their part, stressed Schach's words against "sticking to territories" as indicating that his political views lean towards Labour. They said Labour's efforts to form a coalition will be speeded up now that Schach has had his say.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 27 March notes that "in the opinion of Arye Der'i of SHAS, the speeches of Rabbis Schach and Yosef denote an order not to conduct negotiations on the establishment of an Alignment-led government. On the other hand, Agudat Yisra'el's Menahem Porush believes that Rabbi Schach's speech has not changed anything, and he is confident that the Council of Torah Sages will endorse the coalition agreement reached between Agudat Yisra'el and the Alignment as early as this week."]

Shamir Remarks Could Mean Firmer Intifadah Stand

TA2703071590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 27 Mar 90 p 2

[By Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir gave the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday the impression that he may order firmer measures against the intifada than former defence minister Yitzhaq Rabin, whom he also appeared to be indirectly criticising.

Shamir, who has been acting defence minister since the Alignment ministers left the national unity coalition, assured members of the right-wing Moledet and Tehiya parties that the defence establishment will do all in its power to stamp out internal terror.

He recalled that, under the unity coalition, a regular meeting of the so-called "Territories Panel" had been held every Friday between the responsible ministers and

senior officials, "but these meetings made no contribution to the effectiveness of the struggle against the intifada."

Rabin served as panel chairman.

Shamir also said the U.S. State Department's report claiming the PLO was adhering to its undertaking not to engage in terrorism was "tendentious." He referred to a conversation on the report between a senior American official and a senior Israeli representative in which the American said, "The report extends credit to Yasir 'Arafat with a view to furthering the peace process."

In the committee discussion, Rehav'am Ze'evi (Moledet) said: "In the past, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] always had the power to wipe out the intifada but was never given the orders to do so. You, Shamir, are now minister of defence, and you should make good use of your authority to take the long-overdue appropriate steps."

Shamir 'Not Sorry' Political Process Arrested

TA2703103490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
27 Mar 90 p A6

[By Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also addressed himself to the arrest of the political process, saying: "I am not sorry that I managed to arrest it. That way we prevented the degeneration of our initiative. The Cabinet is committed to its peace initiative, but it is not obliged to accept every idea that comes from Washington or Cairo. One should know how to defuse land-mines and avoid dangers and examine any move proposed by others accordingly."

Referring to the question of aliyah, the prime minister said the Arab world, "led by Jordan and the PLO," has for three months been engaged in a struggle against it. Shamir reiterated that immigrants are not being directed to Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. He added: "To this day, there has been no change in Soviet policy," except for a few remarks made by some top Moscow officials. Summing up the subject, Shamir said "Soviet Jewry is not a hostage to the political process." [passage omitted]

PLO 'Has Approved' Execution of Collaborators

TA2603132890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Mar 90 p A2

[["Exclusive" report by UK-based correspondent Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Text] London—Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's aide, says the PLO leadership has approved the execution of all Palestinians who have collaborated with Israel. In a telephone interview from Tunis with HA'ARETZ, he said: The organization pursues a policy according to which collaborators are warned three times

and given a chance "to repent," after which they are granted another grace period. If all this fails to affect their conduct, they are convicted by a local court, said Abu-Sharif; the verdict will have the approval of PLO top echelons.

Abu-Sharif's remarks came in reaction to reports recently published in the West alleging that 'Arafat had expressed a fear that the executions in the territories may stain the organization's reputation.

Abu-Sharif also addressed the organization's policy toward Jewish immigration in the Soviet Union, saying: "They have the human right to emigrate wherever they please. At the same time, the fact they are flown from Moscow directly to Israel deprives them of their right to decide on their destination. We further believe immigration must not be carried out at the expense of another nation, nor can it be done through oppressing or seizing the houses and lands of another nation...If the immigrants settle on lands acquired in 1967, they will be violating the Geneva Convention. By doing this, they will become—either willingly or unwillingly—the oppressors of another people and the usurpers of its property."

PRC, E. Europe, USSR Delegations Attend Fair

TA2603121290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Over 4,000 foreign visitors, including delegations from China, Egypt, Morocco, and the Soviet Union, are attending the Agritech 90 agricultural machinery fair in Tel Aviv. It opened this morning. Harley Braidman reports:

China's three-man delegation includes (Kasio Kochun), the deputy president of China's state irrigation company. He told newsmen they had come to learn, but also to display their country's achievements. The Chinese have already reached agreement to establish another Israeli farm for irrigation equipment in China. The Chinese participation followed 18 months of negotiations by the Israel Exports Institute's industrial branch director, Rafi Glick, who said two Israeli farms are already operating there.

Bulgaria has also expressed interest in a joint venture with Israel in the field of dairy farming. This was raised in talks between the Bulgarian minister of agriculture and Yitzhaq Moda'i, who is responsible for agriculture in the transition Cabinet.

The Hungarian farming minister is here, too. Representatives from Egypt, Morocco, and Sri Lanka are also attending the exhibition. The Moroccans have expressed interest in Israeli irrigation methods and equipment.

Among the Soviet visitors is the editor of MOSCOW BUSINESS, Gennadiy Pisarevskiy, and the director of Interstroy Progress Business Center, Gennadiy

Goritskiy, who has invited the Tourism Ministry's director general to set up a permanent pavilion in Moscow.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 26 March reports that "Minister Moda'i, who is currently in charge of the Agriculture Ministry, met this morning with agriculture ministers and delegation members from various countries." Four of the six foreign agriculture ministers were from Eastern Europe. "An agreement was signed with Romania in the field of veterinary science."]

Bush Advised To Note Congress Move on Jerusalem

TA2603122990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Mar 90 p A14

[Editorial: "The Senate and Jerusalem"]

[Text] There are bodies, national and international, whose resolutions are merely declarations or recommendations that everyone knows have no obligatory power—they are nonetheless taken seriously.

This practice is correct if we remember the State of Israel was founded upon such a "nonbinding" recommendation of the UN General Assembly dated 29 November 1947. As is well known, we play down UN resolutions—recommendations when they do not correspond with our interests, and rely on them when we find it comfortable to do so.

Similar things can be said following the U.S. Senate resolution stating that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It is a real "bombshell" of a resolution, which on certain days could be phrased to head the newscasts. On everything related to Jerusalem, we have had our share of bitterness from various U.S. Administrations ever since the State of Israel was established. Washington has never recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. It did not do so before the Six-Day War, and is even less pleased with the portions Israel annexed to "West" Jerusalem after that war.

U.S. foreign policy, however, is not conducted by the Senate; rather, it is executed by the White House. The interests there are significantly different from those in play on Capitol Hill. There is no doubt electoral considerations were taken into account by the senators who are going to stand for reelection this year. Nonetheless, the senators deserve our gratitude for their vote-resolution, even if it is not binding on the White House.

It would be good for the U.S. President to know which way the wind is blowing in the legislative branch, even if it is not that branch that conducts policy.

No News Hungary Resuming Flights of Immigrants

TA2603124990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Jerusalem has not heard from the Hungarian Government or the Israeli Embassy in Budapest any

confirmation that the Hungarian airline Malev is resuming flying immigrants to Israel. REUTER reported a short time ago that Malev has not changed its mind in refusing to fly immigrants.

At noon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir described the behavior of the Hungarian airline as a hitch that arouses concern. He said he heard today that the matter might be settled, but that Israel nevertheless is searching for alternative routes. The prime minister spoke with reporters after a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session. Referring to reports about changes in Syria, Mr. Shamir said there has not been any significant change, and that what the Syrians want is an international conference to force Israel to withdraw.

Mr. Shamir also was asked about the report the Defense Ministry's forum on the territories has not convened since Yitzhaq Rabin left the ministry. He said the forum has failed to convene only once, and that its convening in the past nevertheless brought no success in the war against the intifadah.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reported that the prime minister told the correspondents he is curious about what Rabbi Schach will say tonight at the sports stadium. He said the Likud is continuing its efforts to make sure it is capable of forming a government after Shim'on Peres fails.

Reports on Buying Water From Turkey 'Incorrect'

TA2603135490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
26 Mar 90 p 12

[Report by Yig'al Laviv]

[Text] Reports published yesterday by MA'ARIV and YEDI'OT AHARONOT about advanced negotiations being conducted by the Agriculture Ministry to import drinking water from Turkey to Israel are incorrect.

Turkey has large unexploited reserves of sweet water. The Water Authority for years has been toying with the idea of importing water to Israel from Turkey. The idea was raised following negotiations on laying a water pipeline from Turkey to Saudi Arabia.

Israeli entrepreneurs representing a Canadian firm that manufactures plastic containers recently suggested the idea to the Agriculture Ministry and the Water Authority. They presented data showing that if the water is transferred in huge 800,000 cubic meter plastic containers, the price in Israel would not be more than 24 cents per cubic meter, which makes it competitive with the price of the National Water Carrier.

An initial study by the Agriculture Ministry and the Water Authority showed that it is infeasible for two reasons: One, Turkey does not want to damage relations with the Arab countries; and two, there are no containers large enough.

The Agriculture Ministry told the entrepreneurs it does not oppose their funding an experiment to transfer water to Israel in balloons with a volume of up to 50,000 cubic meters to ascertain whether the plan can be implemented in the future. The entrepreneurs prefer the experiment be made at state expense; therefore they began to pressure state representatives using public relations and by planting reports in the media.

About two weeks ago, on 16 March, the first item praising the plan was published in DAVAR. Research by the HADASHOT correspondent showed that it is baseless. Talks with Water Authority Commissioner Zemah Yishay and the Agriculture Ministry revealed the plan has no new aspect, but that did not influence the entrepreneurs, who managed to "sell" the idea to the afternoon papers.

Bulgaria To Renew Relations 'In a Few Days'

TA2603172390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Bulgaria will shortly renew full diplomatic relations with Israel. The Bulgarian agriculture minister, in Israel to visit the Agritech 90 agriculture machinery fair, told acting Agriculture Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i that ties will be renewed in a few days.

El Al, Czechoslovak Airline Sign Flight Accord

TA2703091790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 27 Mar 90 p 2

[By aviation correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Czechoslovakia's airline CSA and El Al reached an agreement in Prague yesterday to provide two flights a week, one by each carrier, an authoritative source said yesterday. An Israeli delegation, comprising Shay Shohami the Director of the Civil Aviation Administration, Eli Tavori the Director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department and Shlomo Homossany who heads El Al's International Department signed the agreement last Thursday. [passage omitted]

The agreement will go into effect this summer.

Meanwhile, Bulgaria's Balkan Air and El Al expect to begin flights in May, following the conclusion of a protocol for diplomatic relations due to be signed in a few days. East Germany's Interflug and El Al have signed a commercial agreement but no flights are scheduled for the time being, the source said.

'Budgetary Restraints' Close Ghana Office

TA2703054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Israel is closing its interests office in Accra, the capital of Ghana. A Foreign Ministry spokesman says

the move is due to budgetary restraints. Israeli interests in Ghana will be represented by Switzerland.

Two-Thirds Not Against German Reunification

TA2603140290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Mar 90 p A4

[By Arnon Ben-Nahum]

[Excerpt] Two-thirds of Israelis do not oppose the unification of Germany. Opposition to the move is lowest among young people of Eastern descent and those born in Israel. The highest percentage opposing the move is among elderly people born in Europe who immigrated to Israel during World War II and its aftermath.

These data were revealed by a poll conducted by the Pori Institute at the request of the Kovner Chair of German history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The survey included 1,200 people. [passage omitted]

12 Wounded in Territories; 2 Schools Closed

TA2603135790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Mar 90 p A2

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Eight residents were wounded in the West Bank and four in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Army sources in the Strip said that clashes occurred in the Jabalyah, al-Shati', and al-Burayj refugee camps. Two residents were injured in Gaza city clashes.

In Ramallah, four residents sustained slight injuries from plastic bullets fired by soldiers. The incident took place after IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops were stoned by locals. [passage omitted]

Two Nabulus schools were closed down on Civil Administration orders issued in the wake of riots. During disturbances, stones were hurled at soldiers watching Joseph's Tomb.

IDF troops in the Jordan Rift Valley apprehended a youth who crossed the border from Jordan. The unarmed youth was taken in for investigation by the security forces.

Katyushas Fall North of Security Zone 26 Mar

TA2703084890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Several katyushas were fired yesterday at the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the katyushas fell north of the security zone and caused no damage. The Hizballah organization assumed responsibility for the shooting.

Lahhud Army Reportedly Building Training Camps

NC2403161790 *Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic* 1530 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD has cited sources at the Lebanese Defense Ministry as saying that the Army Command [of General Emile Lahhud] has begun building four new training camps, each for 500 recruits, in Tyre, Beirut, Hammana, and Ablah.

According to the same sources, the command will accept a new batch of recruits at the end of the first three-month training course.

Defense Minister Comments

NC2503135090 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1230 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Albert Mansur said the government intends to establish an army of 50,000 servicemen, to be accomplished by recruitment and by retraining personnel. Mansur said the army's tasks are to establish the government's authority all over the country, implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 425, and deploy in the south.

Mansur said that the plans to achieve this goal are being prepared and that the army will be reorganized and rebuilt based on previous experience. The army will have to be a unified and non-sectarian institution and one with Arab allegiance. [passage omitted]

Further on Lahhud Command

NC2503152790 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic* 1445 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Albert Mansur has disclosed that more Lebanese Army personnel are joining General Emile Lahhud's command. He said that 67 officers and 1,090 soldiers have already re-enlisted under Lahhud's command. Mansur noted that the legitimate government is facilitating this process and that Gen. Lahhud has issued a clear statement to this effect.

In a radio interview, Mansur said that promotions will be made on a clear and systematic basis and will no longer be erratic or sectarian, as before. Mansur pledged commitment to the al-Ta'if agreement and said: There will be no solution in East Beirut or Lebanon except one that is based on national reconciliation and the al-Ta'if agreement.

Mediation Committee Reportedly Suspends Activity

NC2703095190 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon* 0630 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Extreme tension prevails along the combat lines in the eastern area amid military preparations by the two combatting parties for a new round of fighting, which may be more ferocious. Sniper fire and rockets are being fired along the newly created combat lines, and artillery

rounds are falling every now and then on the two parties' positions and on the residential areas. During the night, the al-Zuq power plant was the target of several shells which caused additional serious damage. Ja'ja's group fired on Antilyas Port, which General 'Awn recently renovated to receive supplies.

The mediation committee has suspended its efforts to resolve the bloody conflict in East Beirut amid fears that the Christian area is moving toward further violence. The mediation committee including Maronite League Chief Shakir Abu-Sulayman and Bishop Bulus Nu'man has suspended its activity after their efforts to end seven weeks of fighting had reached a dead end. According to reports, the committee members reached a deadlock after the disputing parties—Gen. 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja—had each held his position and refused to make any concessions to end their conflict.

The suspension comes in the wake of reports that 'Awn has rebuilt his military arsenal after having received additional ammunition for his artillery and reassembled his troops. Security sources described the situation in the eastern area as a volcano that is about to erupt. The sources added that any fighting between the 'Awn troops and the Lebanese Forces militia will be open-ended, and its damage will exceed the eastern area's losses since 31 January.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Confers With PFLP

NC2403080990 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon* 0630 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Yesterday the Hizballah secretary general, His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, received a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), including Central Committee members Abu-Fadi Raji and Abu-Nizar. During the meeting, they discussed outstanding local, regional, and international developments. They also discussed how to support the intifadah in occupied Palestine.

Israelis Allegedly Changing Border Landmarks

NC2703084690 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic* 0530 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The Israeli enemy forces in the south are seeking to change the landmarks of the border with Lebanon. AFP reports that Israel continues to change the border line with Lebanon. It adds that the Israelis planted iron pegs last Sunday and that these pegs will be used to extend barbed wire which will constitute the new border along a new road which the Israeli forces built in Shab'a. This road is 12 km long and it passes through seven villages. It runs adjacent to the international border inside the Lebanese territory for about two km. Israel has built a new airfield in Bustra farm in the outskirts of Shab'a.

In Hasbayya sector, the occupation forces have built a military road linking its positions in Tallat Kawkaba

with the al-Hasbani and Burghuz axes. According to security sources, the Israeli occupation forces have brought 10 armored cars and 70 soldiers to their positions in Tilal al-Ahmadiyah. These forces shelled positions in western al-Biq'a. Israeli military movements were monitored in 'Alman and al-Sumariyah.

The Israeli occupation forces raided Dayr Siryan township in the occupied border strip, searched houses there, and threatened the inhabitants with expulsion from the area if they cooperate with the resistance men. The enemy forces continue to impose a tight blockade on 'Ayta al-Sha'b township in Bint Jubayl district. They prevent the inhabitants from going to their fields because of their refusal to recruit their children in Agent Lahd's militias. Militia official Ahmad Shibli gathered the inhabitants in the township's square and warned them that every family will be made to pay the salary of a recruit from another family if the first family does not provide a recruit itself. He threatened to expel them outside the occupied border strip if they do not heed this decision.

The enemy's forces raided the mosque in Tiri township despite the objection of the Irish unit there. The forces threatened the inhabitants if they cooperate with the resistance men. Amal sources said that the enemy forces impose a tight blockade on Tayr Harfa township and that they arrested several people including teacher 'Abd-al-Rida 'Atayah.

Hizballah Calls for Ramadan Cease-Fire With Amal

NC2703090690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan, Hizballah has issued a statement saying that this month provides a blessed opportunity to enhance the spirit of piety at the level of the individual and the community, so that the main concern of the devotees is to seek God's blessings. This could be achieved by preserving and honoring the people's rights, defending their security, establishing justice that could root out the oppressors, fortifying the society with values and ethics, providing all the requirements of steadfastness in the face of those waiting to harm the society, and mobilizing the people's ability to fight the battle against the true enemy instead of exhausting these abilities on marginal disputes that drain everybody's resources. [passage omitted]

The statement added: While paying tribute to the struggles against the Zionist enemy and blessing their steadfastness and bravery, we affirm the need for solidarity with them and for not distracting them from their confrontation with their basic enemy. In this respect, we once again reiterate our commitment to a unilateral cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah and call on the Amal Movement to observe a comprehensive cease-fire so that the outstanding agreements can be reached. We call on the movement to alleviate the burdens of the evacuees,

allow them to return to their villages and homes, and to observe a cease-fire, at least during the blessed month of Ramadan.

'Guarded Calm' Follows Overnight Shelling

NC2703070090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Guarded calm reigns along the newly created combat lines after the intermittent overnight shelling of the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah and Sinn al-Fil with machine guns and rockets. The Galerie al-Ittihad also came under mortar fire. At 0530 this morning, bursts of fire were reported in the Nahr al-Kalb and al-Dubayyah area, but traffic along the Nahr al-Kalb crossing was not affected. Early in the night, the al-Ashrafiyah area came under fire, causing a fire to break out in the Sasin area.

Clashes Reported Along New Combat Lines

NC2703130490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Clashes using heavy- and medium-caliber weapons and RPG's have been taking place along the newly created combat lines in the outskirts of the al-Ashrafiyah area from the Hotel Dieu to (al-Tibbiyah) since 1330. The Hotel Dieu and the Museum areas are coming under tank fire. At 1320, an RPG-7 round was fired at al-Barjawi, and bursts of sniper fire directed at the Olivetti area followed.

The Lebanese Forces positions in 'Ajaltun and al-Qulay'at areas are coming under intensive artillery fire from army positions in Zabbugha and (word indistinct). Between 1000 and 1200, shells fell on the 'Ajaltun and al-Qulay'at areas. A fire broke out a short while ago in a building in the Hotel Dieu area as a result of the area being directly shelled. The competent departments are required to intervene to put out the fire.

Amal Fighters Detonate Bomb in South 27 Mar

NC2703141390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] A resistance group today detonated an explosive charge near an agent Lahd militia post, west of al-'Ayshiyah. The explosion left one militiaman injured.

The Amal Movement announced today that a group of its fighters detonated an explosive charge at 0830 this morning as an Agent Lahd militia patrol was moving along the Bra'shit road. The Israeli occupation forces shelled Bra'shit at 0900 today from the hills opposite, injuring one of the residents who was taken to Tibnin hospital for treatment.

The enemy radio reported today that several Katyusha rockets had fallen in the eastern sector of the occupied border strip. The radio did not report any casualties.

Hizballah Reportedly Shells Villages; 3 Wounded

NC2703150490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] A responsible Amal Movement military source in the south has reported that Kafr Hatta, Humin, Jarju', and Kafr Bayt have come under artillery fire from Hizballah positions in Jabal Safi, Jba', and al-Luwayzah. The source said that three people were injured in the shelling and taken to the hospital.

PSP Legislative Council Makes Appointments

NC2403122190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] The Legislative Council of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] held a meeting under the chairmanship of party leader Walid Junblatt on 24 March. The chairman of the council, his deputy, the chairman of the higher authority for the party judiciary, and members of the Council of Honor and the Political Bureau were elected during the meeting. The results were as follows:

1. Chairman of the Legislative Council—Farid Jubran.
Deputy chairman—Tawfiq Barakat.

2. A: Chairman of the higher authority for the party's judiciary—Tawfiq Barakat.

Prosecutor General—Edward Sfayr.

Investigator—Mahdi Shihadah.

B: The council of honor: Rapporteur—Salman al-Ashqar.

Members: Na'im Ghannam and Khalid Najm.

Reserve member: Husayn Majid.

3. Political Bureau.

A: Appointed members.

Secretary General—Sharif Fayyad.

Head of the general administration and services office—Hisham Nasir al-Din.

Head of the party organization office—Bilal 'Abdallah.

Head of the financial and economic affairs office—Bahij Abu-Hamzah.

Head of the media affairs office—Ghazi al-'Aridi.

Head of the cultural affairs office—Fadi al-Dimashqi.

Head of the foreign relations office—Durayd Yaghi.

Head of the mobilization affairs office—Raja Harb.

Head of the labor and trade unionist affairs office—'Ali Jabir.

Head of the office of women's affairs—Salma Sfayr.

Head of the masses organizations—'Ala' Turru.

B. The elected members: Fu'ad Salman, Antoine al-Ashqar, Akram Shuhayyib, Dahir Ghandur, Khalil Ahmad Khalil, Tawfiq Sultan, Joseph al-Qazzi, Halim Abu-Fakhr-al-Din, Milad Kufuri, Zahir Abu-Shaqra, Antoine Farah, and Khalid al-Mukhtar.

4. The party leader has issued a decision appointing Dawud Hamid as inspector general and 'Isam al-Halabi as adviser. They will take part in the Political Bureau's meetings.

Governor Na'im: Central Bank Incident 'Over'

NC2403141290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss met with Central Bank Governor Dr. Edmond Na'im and Finance Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil before noon today. Recent developments, particularly with regards to financial matters, were discussed in the meeting.

Following the meeting, Dr. Na'im said that they discussed state loans, adding that regular meetings will be held to pursue that matter further.

Dr. Na'im noted that the incident that took place last week should not have happened. I always apply the law, and what happened at the bank was a violation of the law, Na'im said. He added: A lawsuit has been filed and is in the hands of the judiciary, but as you may have noticed, the issue is politically over.

For his part, Minister al-Khalil said that the Central Bank issue was discussed in light of the decisions passed at the recent cabinet meeting. Certain measures were taken to facilitate coordination between government departments and the Central Bank in accordance with the existing laws and procedures and with due consideration of the public interest and the methods which the government adopted regarding allocation of public funds.

Minister al-Khalil added: We have approved certain measures to facilitate coordination and cooperation, and these will lead to the desired results. As for the Central Bank episode, Minister al-Khalil said that this incident is now behind us and noted that the needs of the public, the government, and the Central Bank have been taken into account.

Bush Letter to Al-Asad on Golan Settlement Cited

PM2703075790 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
27 Mar 90 p10

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that U.S. President George Bush has sent a letter to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the peace efforts in the region. A U.S. source in Cairo has stated that Bush assured al-Asad that the U.S. Administration would continue its efforts for a comprehensive and final peace in the region. He said that Bush informed al-Asad that the U.S. Administration had warned Israel against settling any Soviet Jewish immigrants in the Golan, emphasizing that the final status of the Golan would be determined in necessary direct negotiations involving all the parties to the Middle East conflict.

Palestine Broadcast Attacks U.S. Congress

JN2503183990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother militants: The majority of members of the U.S. Senate, the Congress [as heard], have perhaps misunderstood the meaning of the title "senator," which they gained after the Zionists financed their election campaigns, gave them their racist votes, and continued to provide them with bribes to raise their hands whenever a decision desired by the Zionists needed to be made.

Now, we see some Congress members, who are made of the Zionists' gold and dollars, decide to pass a resolution not pertaining to Washington, New York, Chicago, New Jersey, or any other U.S. city, town, village, or hamlet—and not even to Death Valley or the Nevada desert—but to a city that is as far away from them as they are from humanity and honesty: the city of Jerusalem. They want it to be a united capital for their Israel, which slips dollars into their pockets.

Naturally those people do not understand what Arab Jerusalem means and of course they do not feel the size of the crimes which Israel and its supporters commit. However, error cannot continue and the attempts to mess around with the destinies of other people can only be faced with resistance.

If the U.S. Congress members wish to give Israel a capital or a piece of land, then they should use the territories of America and we will not object. But, to mess around with a Palestinian territory, then they are doing what their predecessor Balfour and his clique did—they are committing a crime and an aggression. There is a punishment for each crime and there is a reward for each good deed. No matter whether the Congress members who passed this devious resolution, are Democrats or Republicans, it is a null and void resolution. They may have the right to do what they want with the destiny of those who elected them, but not those who have nothing at all to do with them.

USSR's Tabeyev Continues Friendship Visit
Meets With Ba'th Party Official

JN2503171590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT
25 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 25 Mar (SANA)—Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, today received Comrade Fikryat Tabeyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers, and chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society, and his accompanying delegation, who have been on a visit to Syria for the past few days. [passage omitted]

Comrade Tabeyev stressed the depth of relations between the Soviet Union and Syria and pointed out that his country will continue to support the Arab people's struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The Soviet official highly praised Syria's positions against imperialism and Zionism and denounced the Israeli settlement and expansionist policy.

The CPSU Central Committee member also said that scientific, structural, and economic progress in Syria form the strong foundation for its steadfastness. He also expressed his high appreciation of the principled and wise policy pursued by Syria under Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Party secretary general and president of the Republic.

Meets Al-Asad, Signs Pact

JN2603142790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] At 1215 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Fikrat Tabeyev, CPSU Central Committee member, first deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers, and chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society. Dr. Wahib Tannus, Regional Command member and chairman of Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus attended.

Meanwhile, a friendship and cooperation pact between the friendship societies in Syria and the USSR was signed today. Dr. Tannus signed for Syria, and Comrade Fikraty Tabeyev for the Soviet side. The two then exchanged friendly speeches, both vowing to develop bilateral friendship and cooperation in conformity with the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Conveys Greetings to Al-Asad

JN2603192290 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Fikryat Tabeyev, CPSU Central Committee member, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, and chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society, at 1215 today. Attending the audience were Dr. Wahib Tannus, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chairman of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society, and Aleksandr Zotov, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

Tabeyev conveyed to the president Soviet President Gorbachev's greetings. The president accepted them and asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Gorbachev, the Soviet leadership, and the friendly Soviet people. Tabeyev also conveyed to him President Gorbachev's renewed invitation to visit the Soviet Union, which President al-Asad accepted and promised to fulfill.

The talks also dealt with bilateral relations. Tabeyev stressed the Soviet Union's eagerness to maintain friendship with Syria and said the Soviet Union will not allow the weakening of this friendship which responds to the interests of the two sides. He stressed the importance of relations and cooperation with Syria. President al-Asad also stressed the importance of friendship with the Soviet Union—a friendship which stood up to all tests and throughout all circumstances.

The Middle East situation and developments were also reviewed during the meeting and Tabeyev briefed the president on Soviet domestic developments.

Calls Jewish Settlement 'Inhumane'

JN2603183290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 26 Mar (SANA)—Mr. Fikryat Tabeyev, chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society, has lauded friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR, noting that these ties are growing steadily in the best interests of the two peoples.

He told a news conference in Damascus attended by Arab and foreign media correspondents that his visit here culminated in the signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty for this year and the next to improve cultural ties between the Soviet Union and Syria.

During his visit he explained his country's position on a number of issues, especially the question of emigrating Soviet Jews, whom the Israeli authorities are settling in occupied Arab land, Tabeyev said.

The Soviet Government and public, added Tabeyev, have issued statements condemning the settling of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab land, which he said affects USSR interests with the Arabs. He called Israel's settling of

these Jews in occupied Arab territory inhumane, and emphasized that it is targeted against a just solution to the Middle East problem and seeks to torpedo all attempts at a peaceful settlement. [passage omitted]

Departs After Week-Long Visit

JN2703105990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0928 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 27 Mar (SANA)—The delegation of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society headed by Comrade Fikrat Tabeyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, and chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society, left Damascus this morning on the way back to Moscow.

Comrade Tabeyev was seen off at Damascus International Airport by comrade Dr. Wahib Tannus, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chairman of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society; members of the society's Executive Bureau; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

The delegation concluded a week-long visit to Syria during which it signed an agreement of friendship and cooperation between the two societies and discussed several matters pertaining to mutual cooperation in various fields.

'Imperialist' Definition of Terrorism Criticized

JN2503192490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Palestine broadcast: From "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brother militants: When an Arab citizen hears of a report issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization stating that in 1989, civilian aircraft were subjected to 14 attacks resulting in the death of 279 people, he must wonder: Where, when, how, and who? He may recall only those attacks related to the war waged by the drug trafficking gangs in Colombia, which, it has been proved, were trained by Israel and its Mosad.

Those terroristic operations, however, which are real in terms of their number and the number of victims, have not sparked any clamor by the imperialist propaganda organs and passed as if nothing has happened. One must ask why, especially since we are facing the fact that the number of terrorist acts, as the International Civil Aviation Organization says, has not decreased, rather it has increased. There were 12 attacks against civilian aircraft in 1988, compared with 14 in 1989.

The reason is very clear. A report submitted by the U.S. Administration to Congress denied that the Palestinians have committed any what they call terrorist act since 1988 against foreign targets.

This means that they make hell break loose only when the Palestinian resorts to violence. They remain silent, however, as silent as the dead, when the matter concerns real terrorism. They complain about the legitimate resistance waged by the oppressed Palestinian against those who usurp his land, rights, and freedom and those who practice terrorism against him every minute and every second. But, they remain silent over the real terrorism, which resulted, as the international organization's statistics show, in the death of 279 in 1989 and 300 people the year before. Is this blindness? It is the blindness of their racial superiority trend which they do not want to abandon.

Ba'th Party Condemns U.S. Maneuvers in DPRK

JN2603143090 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
18 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] A responsible source in the Ba'th Party National Command Foreign Relations office has stated the following:

Once again U.S. forces are carrying out military maneuvers in the Korean peninsula. These maneuvers, like all the other U.S. moves and threats in other areas of the world, constitute blackmail and a threat to use force at a time when international relations are proceeding toward relaxation.

We condemn these maneuvers given that they are directed against the DPRK, which is a friendly and peaceful country struggling peacefully and independently for the unity of its homeland.

Israeli Minister's Statements Full of 'Paradoxes'

JN2403100090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT
24 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 24 Mar (SANA)—In one of its commentaries, the newspaper TISHRIN today comments on statements made by Binyamin Netanyahu, assistant Israeli foreign affairs minister, and says that these statements are replete with paradoxes and deserve to be carefully considered and studied.

TISHRIN adds that the international community is unanimous that Jewish emigration will pose threats to world peace rather than bolster that peace, as alleged by the Israeli official.

The paper says that Netanyahu views Israel as a full partner of the United States when he refers to common priorities such as protecting oil supply routes, protecting moderate regimes, preventing a resurgence of terrorism, and preventing irresponsible regimes from threatening peace. The paper adds: Thus, Netanyahu is nullifying the roles of the United Nations, the international community, and other world states such as the USSR, Japan,

and Western European states whose industries are linked to Arab oil. Besides, the Western European states maintain strong ties with the oil states in our region.

TISHRIN says: Netanyahu's statements, just like the statements and the stands adopted by other Israeli leaders, are fraught with paradoxes. However, they must be considered seriously, as past experience and events have shown that Israel is capable of making U.S. Administrations espouse these paradoxes.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says that Netanyahu's statements lend further credence to the statements made by President al-Asad in which he sounded the alarm when he warned the Arabs that they face the eventuality of collapse unless they hasten to forge unity and solidarity and to reconsider their stands.

Talas Receives Soviet, Irish Officials

JN2403160590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this afternoon received General (Aleksandrovich Galkin), chief of the armored vehicles division in the Soviet Army, and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by a number of ranking command officers. Talks centered on the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly armies and means of developing them.

After that, the general received Mr. (Vincent Parady), Irish secretary of state at the Prime Ministry and Defense Ministry, who is currently visiting Syria to inspect the Irish units working as part of the peace-keeping forces.

Cypriot-Syrian Friendship Society Head Arrives

JN2603144690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. (Astasios Astasio), president of the Cypriot-Syrian Friendship Society, and head of the Democratic Cypriot Bar Association, has arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Astasio told SANA he is happy to be visiting Syria, with which Cyprus has close ties. He stressed his country's pride in Syria's national struggle under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad against the aggressive imperialist plans. The militant ties between the Syrian and Cypriot peoples will grow further due to a common understanding of the background to these relations, he added. In the eyes of the Cypriots, Syria is a friendly neighbor with a vital and key role in the region, (Astasio) said.

India

Further Reportage on PRC Foreign Minister's Visit

Discusses Border With Gujral

*BK2303160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] The joint working group set up by India and China to discuss the boundary issue will have its second meeting in New Delhi in the second half of this year. A decision to this effect was reached during the discussion between the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, in New Delhi today.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that both sides agreed that the boundary question should be settled through peaceful and friendly consultations. It may be recalled that the decision to set up the joint working group was taken during the former Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in December 1988. The joint working group had held its first meeting in Beijing in July last year.

Discusses Border Question, Kashmir

*BK2403015290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0035 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, has denied that India and China are brushing aside the boundary question while working for improvement in bilateral relations. Addressing a crowded press conference in New Delhi yesterday, he said it is a major question left over from the past and the earlier it is settled the better. When it is asked to clarify his remarks that it is necessary for India and China to have a mutually accommodative and acceptable solution to the boundary issue, the Chinese foreign minister said that no unilateral concessions can lead to a mutually acceptable solution.

To another question that the Chinese press has been siding with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Qian Qichen said the Chinese press reports are based on the information provided by Pakistan and China would like to take an objective view that the issue should be settled bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

Earlier, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the second round of discussions between Mr. Gujral and his Chinese counterpart lasted for two hours. Mr. Gujral told the Chinese foreign minister that all who believe that religion and politics should be separated must be concerned about Pakistan's interference in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, called on the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. During their hour-long meeting,

the prime minister and the Chinese foreign minister discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Talks to Newsmen, Departs 24 Mar

*BK2403075490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, was given a warm send off when he left New Delhi for Beijing after a four-day official visit to India. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral.

Talking to newsmen before his departure at the airport, Mr. Qian Qichen expressed satisfaction over the discussions with the Indian leaders and said given the political will and concerted efforts by both India and China, the outstanding problems, like boundary issue, can be solved peacefully. He said he had fruitful discussions with the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, for more than an hour and discussed international and bilateral issues.

The Chinese foreign minister said that the joint working group set up to go into the boundary question will meet again in New Delhi. Some progress has been made during the first meeting of the joint working group at Beijing.

More on Departure Remarks, Talks

*BK2403100490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Excerpts] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, was given a warm send-off when he left for Beijing after a four-day official visit to India. He was seen off at the Delhi airport among others by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral. Talking to newsmen before his departure at the airport, Mr. Qian Qichen expressed satisfaction over the discussions with Indian leaders and said that if India and China exercise political will and make concerted efforts, the outstanding problems between them, like the boundary issue, can be solved peacefully. [passage omitted]

The external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, said that the prime minister has taken the initiative to introduce direct air services between Delhi and Beijing. Details are being finalized. Mr. Gujral said that the prime minister has extended an invitation to the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, to visit India.

Earlier, the Chinese foreign minister held discussions with the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, this morning on bilateral trade and economic matters. Mr. Qian Qichen reiterated his country's desire to further strengthen commercial and economic relations with India, including cooperation in joint ventures. Mr. Arun Nehru referred to the contract for the supply of half a million tons of iron ore to China, for which an agreement has already been finalized between the two countries.

Leaders Send Messages on Pakistani National Day

BK2303055690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan is celebrating its national day today. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, greeted the people of Pakistan on the occasion.

In a message sent to the Pakistani president and the prime minister, Mr. Venkataraman expressed his sincere hope that India and Pakistan will work together for the establishment of mutually beneficial relations and for the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

In his message, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said India is committed to promoting peaceful, friendly, and cooperative relations with all its neighbors.

Government 'Ready' To Hold Talks With Kashmiris

BK2303161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] It has been officially clarified that the government is ready to hold talks with the people of Kashmir to resolve their problems, but not anyone outside the country. The clarification was given by an official spokesman on Prime Minister Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh's remarks to newsmen on Kashmir while on his way to Windhoek to attend the Namibian independence celebrations. The spokesman said the question put to the prime minister was whether the government would have talks with the militants, like Amanullah Khan of the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] who was based in Pakistan. To this, the prime minister said that we will talk with the people of Kashmir. The spokesman clarified that what the prime minister had stated was not contradictory to the stand of the government that the center is prepared to have talks with the militants within the framework of the Constitution provided they give up violence and there is peace in Kashmir.

In the Kashmir Valley, some subversives were apprehended today following intensified search operations in Srinagar. There was no relaxation of curfew in the city today. However, the curfew was relaxed in other places for varying periods. Dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed in a five-km area along the border.

All-Party Meeting Opposes Elections in Punjab

BK2603162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The union cabinet subcommittee on political affairs has approved a draft amending bill to enable the government to extend further the president's rule in Punjab to a maximum period of one year. This follows a broad consensus reached at the all-party meeting convened by the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today.

The president's rule imposed in Punjab under Article 356, Clause 4 of the Constitution expires in May. As the Rajya Sabha is to go into recess on Friday [30 March], the draft bill is to be presented to both houses this week itself.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the broad consensus at the meeting was the situation in the state is not congenial to holding of a free and fair poll immediately. When introducing the subject to the meeting, the prime minister pointed out the number of initiatives taken by the National Front government to restore normalcy in Punjab. But the question was whether free and fair poll can be held in the state immediately. Mr. V.P. Singh declared that the joint efforts launched in coordination with all political parties will be intensified so that we may reach a point of holding a free and fair poll in Punjab very soon.

The parties which took part in the all-party meeting include the Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI [Communist Party of India], Forward Bloc, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], DSP [Democratic Socialist Group, Sikkim Sangrahalaya Parishad], Akali Dal-Barnala Dal, Congress-S, Kerala Congress, Muslim League, National Conference, and DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam].

The prime minister was assisted by union ministers, professor Madhu Danavate, Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Mr. Upendra, and Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan.

Meghalaya Ministers Take Oath of Office 26 Mar

BK2603161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] In Meghalaya, a seven-member new ministry headed by Mr. B.B. Lyngdoh of Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party has been sworn in. The governor, Mr. A.A. Rahim, administered the oath of office and secrecy to them at a function at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Shillong this evening.

'Veteran Communist Leader of Kashmir' Assassinated

BK2403035090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] A veteran communist leader of Kashmir, Mr. Abdul Sattar Ranjur, was assassinated last night by suspected terrorists in his village, Kegan in Anantnag District. According to reports, two youths entered his house around midnight at last night and fired at him. He died on the spot.

The 73-year-old Mr. Abdul Sattar Ranjur was a freedom fighter, a poet, and a journalist. He was known for his progressive views.

Iran

Paper on U.S. 'Government-Sponsored Burglary'

NC2603162390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 8 Mar 90 p 9

[Unattributed commentary: "Imposed Capitulation"]

[Excerpts] Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an order permitting U.S. officials abroad to inspect and seize documents. [passage omitted]

The issuance of such an order for stealing documents in foreign countries by U.S. officials, like the recent order approved and issued by the U.S. Department of Justice giving permission to abduct individuals, provides a clear picture of the nature of the U.S. judicial system for world public opinion to judge.

Such "orders" and "warrants" are being issued by a government which considers its country the cradle of civilization more than any other in the world and raises its voice the loudest whenever there is mention of democracy and freedom.

During the past decade, the Americans used the unlawful right of capitulation in order to capitalize fully on unbridled social and political liberties and to attain absolute freedom in all fields. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that the Americans would not have had the audacity or the courage to violate the sanctity of recognized norms without first assessing the international political atmosphere and without being aware of the silence and nauseating consent of the servile regimes.

The Americans have not just received permission to commit burglary merely by issuing a court order. We have not forgotten that the aggressive U.S. soldiers in Panama seized arms from the private residences of the ambassadors of Cuba and Nicaragua without any regard for their political immunity and even stole cash and valuables from them. Like abduction, this phenomenon is not unprecedented. The only aspect of the matter which appears to be new today is publicizing this government-sponsored burglary and abduction openly. The United States has been carrying out this ugly activity covertly until now, and is making it official and public today.

This should be enough to make world public opinion aware that there are many recognized international norms and laws in the world, the adherence of which is a moral and humanitarian need, but they are being violated by the unintelligent echelons of the White House, until eventually they are made overt and official in their system of government. Are the international organizations—including Amnesty International, which is constantly publishing reports on kidnappings, torture, and maltreatment of human beings in various parts of the world—aware of these "legitimized" regulations in a country which labels itself "the cradle of civilization and democracy"?

Even the worst dictatorial regimes deny accusations of burglary, kidnapping, torture, or maltreatment of their people. They are never prepared to accept responsibility for such actions and categorically reject them. However, the stigma of cowardice and obscenity has been so obliterated in the idolatrous world today that a world power in this civilized era can approve a legal document in its own country for burglary and kidnapping!

When posterity turns the pages of history and sits in judgment over the ugliness or favorability of these chapters, what will it term these events which surpass even the savagery and barbarism of the medieval era and the law of the jungle?

Commentary on Phone 'Farce,' Hostage Policy

NC2603131890 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
10 Mar 90 p 18

[Omid Mas'udi commentary: "America: The Repetition of a Fiasco"]

[Text] White House spokesman (Steve Hart) said that a month ago the U.S. President was the victim of a farce by a man who claimed to be the president of Iran.

While revealing George Bush's futile effort to carry out a telephone conversation with the president of Iran, the White House spokesman refrained from giving more information to correspondents and only emphasized: "This telephone call was a farce!"

For more than 10 years, Iran has always bitterly mocked Washington. The first such mockery was the American nest of spies occupying Tehran and the last one was the arrest of many American spies in Iran.

However the latest trick played on America was more extensive, both in view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's situation in reconstructing the country and in view of the current conditions that America is facing in relation to the situation in the Soviet Union after Gorbachev's new policies were accepted.

The White House should answer many questions on the new disgrace. However, the defeat America suffered in this new fiasco stems from its great misfortune in that every step it takes to remove the Islamic Revolution's obstacles is defeated. America has suffered bitter experiences—from military attacks to preparing for coup attempts to training spies in Iran. All these were aimed at overthrowing the revolution, but these experiences were even more bitter when it came to finding ways to reconcile with the revolution.

The dossier of American disgrace in the Irangate scandal had not yet been closed when the White House spokesman reported yet another disgrace. This disgrace stems from the following:

1. America still lacks accurate knowledge about Iran's Islamic Revolution. Of course it is difficult for America

to accept that the people elected Iran's president, contrary to America's puppet presidents, and that he will not choose any other path but to implement the people's objectives and aspirations. Iranians consider America to be the great Satan. America has never been sincere to our people; this is why the slogan "Death to America," which is the true manifestation of the people's hatred and disgust for this source of corruption, throngs so loudly throughout Iran.

2. Until (Steve Hart's) report, the American President always stressed that Iran's rightful demand that the frozen assets in American banks be unblocked as the first step toward solving any problem and the issue of hostage-taking in Lebanon were two separate issues. How is it that now Mr. Bush is content with a mere telephone contact with Iran for solving the problem of American hostages in Lebanon?

Mr. Bush is forgetful and does not know that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stressed that it is not involved in the hostage-taking issue. However since America always considers that it has the right to intervene in any country's domestic affairs, it thinks that Iran too grants itself this right. The hostage issue will only be solved if the Lebanese and Palestinians' rights are respected and not through telephone contacts with Tehran.

3. America's new disgrace stems from Washington's confusion over the growth of Islamic movements in various corners of the world, which are intensifying more and more each day. These movements are emerging as Washington's next rival after the Kremlin. Therefore, finding any way to show Washington's friendship with the Islamic Revolution is seen as a way to reduce the Muslims' hatred toward America. However, this is a futile thought, and America is definitely denied this conditions.

In analyzing the new American fiasco, the president pointed out during the Friday prayers: "One of the points that was made clear was that the Americans need to talk to Iran very much and, thanks be to God, they are denied this blessing. The second point is that Iran is so important in today's world as a result of all your resistance, that God has given you such a lofty position that the greatest power in today's world and the most bullying power on earth is trying to find a way to our executive officials through telephone contacts. The third strange point is that the White House is pursuing such a confused policy that such a disgrace can occur there."

UN's Eight-Point Plan Seen as Serious Step

*NC2303205390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 10 Mar 90 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "Mutual Trust"]

[Text] Publishing the UN Secretary General's eight-point plan for resuming the peace talks between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most recent and

probably the most serious UN step toward establishing lasting peace between the two countries. This plan is important because it resulted from studies, visits, and private official and unofficial talks between the UN officials and the sides involved. Also it states exactly what has been stated in Resolution 598 for which the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced its support. The contents of this plan, with the exception of Article 8, are generally nothing new. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran reacted immediately and positively and expressed—from its president's mouth—its full readiness to implement the resolution with the UN secretary general's new plan.

The new point in the UN secretary general's plan is the reference to "mutual trust." It seems that by mentioning this point, the UN secretary general is trying to answer a need the Iraqi regime has now as well as after the resolution is implemented, which it probably expressed to the UN secretary general. This point appears in Article 8 of the secretary general's new plan as follows:

"Mutual trust for completely implementing the resolution to create peace and good neighborly relations."

As can be seen from the text of this article, the trust in question is linked to completely implementing the resolution in the first phase, and following good neighborly relations between the two countries in the next phase.

As far as the first phase—completely implementing Resolution 598—is concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed the necessary trust from the very moment that the resolution was accepted by the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his grave be sanctified. The acts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials have clearly proved this trust.

In the same way that the Islamic Republic of Iran was determined in the sacred defense against aggression and the imposed war, it expressed its firm belief in implementing Resolution 598 and proved its goodwill and sincerity when the cease-fire was accepted and when the peace talks started. It will continue with this same sincerity until the end of the road and until lasting peace is achieved. This is something that has always been known on the international level, and this should not be doubted.

As for the second phase, it should be noted that accepting peace through implementing Resolution 598 actually means accepting good neighborly relations between the two countries based on the outcome of implementing this resolution. Once Resolution 598 is completely implemented and peace is established, naturally relations between two neighboring governments and nations can be envisaged. The existence of such relations between two nations is only natural, unavoidable, and favorable.

Therefore, it seems that as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, the road to implementing Resolution 598 based on the UN secretary general's eight-point plan

is open with no obstacles. The Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed the trust which the UN secretary general has in mind in his eight-point plan, and if the Iraqi regime shows the same readiness, "mutual trust" can be achieved. Thus, once again Baghdad should prove through its deeds that it is sincere in its peace-seeking allegations and change the current atmosphere of doubt and ambiguity into an atmosphere of trust.

Paper Calls for End to 'No-War, No-Peace'

*NC2303110590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
10 Mar 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Who Benefits From 'No-War-No-Peace'"]

[Text] Who benefits from the no-war, no-peace situation? One does not have far to look for an answer and the answer very obviously is those big powers who perhaps have ulterior motives in keeping this region on the boil and selling millions and billions of dollars in arms to unsuspecting imaginary foes.

When U.N. Security Council Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar submitted his new 8-point agenda for fresh talks between Iran and Iraq last Tuesday, he expected an answer within two weeks from both parties in the Iran-Iraq conflict now ended for nearly one-and-a-half-years. When President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the Friday prayer gathering yesterday, he made his unequivocal answer. Iran agrees. For the past one-and-a-half years Iran has agreed to every just suggestion for bringing an accomplished peace closer; it agreed to a recent Soviet proposal and then also to a (P)GCC [(Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council] proposal through Oman as a member of that body. It is Iraq that disagrees.

Now the Iranian president has said he considers the no-war, no-peace situation a most dangerous one, benefiting only the big powers. But Iran has nothing to lose from agreeing to move from this to a firm situation of peace through implementation of Resolution 598. It is only Iraq that has to answer first for starting the war and now for putting off the full implementation of peace, the president said.

Why should the present crisis, the continuation of the conflict, be perpetuated simply giving the big powers an occasion to keep their forces here and to keep the region on the boil? Yet this is happening even as Eastern Europe is breaking down its economic and political shackles and moving into a new era of progress. Why should this be?

And isn't it ironical that in the face of changes taking place across the world, particularly in Europe, that countries in this region continue to be embroiled in conflicts and continue to be among the biggest arms purchasers in the world, besides spending millions to keep their military forces in a constant state of alert?

Why should we keep postponing economic problems and be tied down to thinking in terms of a possible conflict when Europe forges ahead with economic improvements

for the people in that continent? We surely should not allow a no-war, no-peace situation to cause us to linger on this crucial need for economic betterment. In the long-term it will only be the West that will benefit.

A no-war, no-peace situation may be a matter of indifference to the big powers, or at worst they may be interested in perpetuating the status quo motivated by sinister designs of snatching the chances the countries here have of an opportunity to march towards progress and be less dependent on them. Yet we cannot and should not let this happen. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani knows so and that is why the answer has come so quickly on behalf of Islamic Iran.

Tobruq Arab Summit, Syrian Goals Viewed

*LD2503125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1051 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The leaders of Libya, Egypt, Sudan, and Syria watched a joint exercise performed by Syrian, Egyptian and Libyan pilots. The program, which was performed on the 20th anniversary of the ousting of British forces from Libya, is considered politically significant.

Following the significant developments in the inter-Arab relations in 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990], it seems that these developments would take form more quickly this year. In addition to being considered a big boon for the Egyptian regime for completely breaking the Arab boycott, the resumption of ties between Egypt and Syria, last Dey [month beginning 22 December 1989] was a strong sign of a major upheaval in inter-Arab relations. [passage omitted]

Although the ending of the Egyptian regime's political isolation apparently resulted from the decision made by Arab heads of state at the extraordinary summit in Amman, no doubt regional and international developments have also played a significant role in the course of events.

In addition to major international developments, the formation of new factions in the Middle East and the Arab world finally forced Syria to open her diplomatic doors to Egypt, and consequently for al-Asad to meet Husni Mubarak yesterday. While the Egyptian regime has diplomatic ties with all Arab countries except Lebanon, and the slogan "having ties with Egypt," meaning recognizing the Camp David accord, has waned, the meeting may not evoke a great deal of reaction, but it could be a sign of further upheavals in the Arab world and even the formation of a new league by Syria, Egypt, Libya and Sudan in the future. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Syria, which is not a member of any of the regional pacts, has agreed to establish ties with Egypt to neutralize the efforts of her rivals in the Arab world. Syria's problems, mainly involving Lebanon, continued until recently in the form of Michel 'Awn's clan. Since

the Iraqi regime was behind that conspiracy—and basically that regime supports any anti-Syrian faction—by re-establishing ties with Egypt Syria hopes to alleviate the pressure on herself.

By establishing ties with Egypt, Syria believes her goals could be attained in the following forms. One, it would cool Egyptian-Iraqi relations. Two, it may pave the way for Syria to take part in the Arab Cooperation Council. And three, a new alliance may come about. For Syria any of the above results would mean preventing Iraqi pressure and solving her own problems.

While Damascus is awaiting this development the gathering in northeast Libya of the leaders of Syria, Egypt, Libya, and Sudan could increase the chances of speedier developments in the future.

Editorial Addresses Debate on Velayat-e Faqih

NC2303161090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian

1 Mar 90 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "What Is the Intention?"]

[Text] "Bad defense" of a sacred reality, even if this sacred reality is God, Islam, the Koran, the Prophet, the imamate, or the Velayat [jurisconsult], is harmful rather than helpful as sure as it is being defended.

Bad defense can stem from not considering time and place, from the way the defense is stated, or finally, from the carelessness of the person who is carrying out the defense!

If a person propounds an important issue inopportunely and needlessly without considering all aspects involved, then not only are doubts not removed, but they are instilled. Thus, even if the most sacred and lofty realities are being defended, bad defense can inflict the most harm on them.

Which one of the true followers of Islam and of the revolution, the imam, the system, and the leadership has doubted the absoluteness of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], making it necessary for us to needlessly repeat explanations? And this during a somber scientific discussion at the Friday prayers?

It is true that the absoluteness of the velayat-e faqih is unimaginable for two people at the same time and that Imam Khomeyni was the absolute velayat-e faqih in our time while the lofty leader of the revolution is the absolute velayat-e faqih now. However, why bring this up? Cursed be anyone who denies this truth, but why bring this up at all?

Is it not true that these remarks give rise to public doubt? That they give rise to an unrealistic controversy? What do they mean? Has anyone said anything to deny this reality? What kind of unnecessary and inopportune concern is this?

If someone had said, when Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, spoke emotionally from behind one dais or another: O people, know that it is not possible for both Imam Khomeyni to be the absolute velayat-e faqih at the same time as the Prophet, peace be upon Him and His descendants, and with the immaculate imams, peace be upon them, then would this not have instilled doubts and made people wonder if something had happened to initiate such a remark?

If, during the imam's life, without there being any need for it, someone announced here and there—O people and officials, know and be aware that time and place have changed or may change and therefore His Eminence Imam Khomeyni can change Islamic injunctions by using the absoluteness of the velayat-e faqih—would not the way that this topic was brought up instill doubts?

Of course, during the life of his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, if the time, place, and opportunity were right and there were a serious need and things had reached a point where many problems of the Islamic system's rule had remained unsolved and their solution called for clarifications, the imam would directly and personally enter the scene and would express his views and realities. This was unprecedented even in the seminaries' jurisprudential atmosphere.

The interesting thing is that at the time when Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, was alive, many of the dear and revered jurisprudents, with all their affection to the imam and with all the knowledge they had about the basis of Imam Khomeyni's jurisprudence, were unaware of the delicate aspects of that great man's ideas and jurisprudence. For example, a few years before the demise of his eminence the imam and just when the topic of foreign trade and how to ratify the law on it had sparked a commotion, one of the jurisprudents who was speaking at a funeral ceremony at Ark Mosque told the audience, most of whom were bazaris and merchants: Islam's injunction is that trade is free and therefore permissible. Go to your shops, open them, operate them zealously, and do not fear this commotion that has been started by slanderers and those who have been influenced by the East. This is Islam's injunction and this is what the imam says too. Go and continue your work. This is Islam's injunction and no one can change it, "not even the imam!"

This esteemed jurisprudent's faith in Islam and his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, was and is completely clear. However, this was his view, and this is the view that many others had too, more or less.

Today however, after Imam Khomeyni's demise, unfortunately some of the great men unintentionally create a situation that gives rise to a type of controversy. In other words, it is a situation where some may think that from now on whoever emphasizes the imam's line and view probably opposes the velayat-e faqih and whoever emphasizes on the velayat-e faqih probably opposes the imam's line and view!

What happened with the international situation, with the regional situation, and with the situation of no war, no peace that a new dispute has started? It seems as if we want to prove that we do not need opposition political parties and groups, since we ourselves can do all these things ourselves! What need is there for this party, that organization, or that movement? We can do whatever they want to do by ourselves! This is why we want the law on parties but we do not want the parties because we already have them! Will some of the opportunists in the Islamic world or in the non-Islamic world not blow up such reports and incidents and say to others that the Iranians themselves are arguing on the most important issue, therefore what do they expect from us?!

There is no doubt that presently the velayat-e faqih is the absolute velayat-e faqih. There is no doubt that the leadership authorities today are the same leadership authorities of yesterday. However, there is also no doubt that the revolution's foundation is based on the imam's jurisprudential, political, economic, and cultural views of Imam Khomeyni. The revolution's existence and credibility is contingent on these views.

The esteemed Ayatollah Khamene'i, the lofty leader of the revolution and the current forerunner of the absoluteness of the velayat-e faqih has insisted on this reality more than anyone else, has taught us this reality more than anyone else, and has pointed out and sincerely called on everyone to defend the Imam's line. Khamene'i's line is Khomeyni's line, and Khomeyni's line is Khamene'i's line. We learned this yesterday from the imam and today from Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Paper Examines Resuming Relations With UK

NC2303111290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
15 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Irano-British Relations"]

[Text] The British ambassador in Kuwait expressed sadness at the break in political relations between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He further added that his country wants to re-establish relations with the Islamic Republic, but this was only possible through acceptance of British conditions.

In the past few months, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd also expressed his country's desire for betterment of relations with Iran adding that there is a "vacuum" in such relations.

Such statements are considered positive by Iran. But what exactly is the real nature of Irano-British relations? Despite the cut-off in political relations, economic, cultural and social contacts continue to be maintained between the two countries. In fact England is at present one of the most important trading partners of Iran.

Political relations, which were re-established after the signing of a Letter of Understanding in Vienna, again

became critical after the publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous "Satanic Verses" novel. The novel is tantamount to open aggression and insult against Islam's most sacred precepts.

The Iranian Majlis in a bill has called for clarification of London's stance on Rushdie's open effrontery against Islam. But since stances by British officials were not clear, the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry had no alternative but to cut off diplomatic relations.

Now that British officials have expressed a desire to have political relations with Iran, the obstacles should first be eliminated.

Hojjat ol-Islam Assadollah Bayat, vice-speaker of the Iranian Majlis (parliament) in an interview with TEHRAN TIMES on November 2, 1989 made it clear that if the British government is opposed to this insult against Islam's sacred precepts and condemns it there will be no problems in re-establishment of relations.

Bayat said, "Well, we do not have any problems with Britain and you saw the diplomatic relations were resumed but were severed in February this year (1989)."

He added: "Even today if Britain corrects its policy and acts according to the ruling of the Majlis, diplomatic relations can be resumed."

In fact the Majlis ruling calling for clarification from London can be the axis for solving the problem between the two countries. The British government should have no problems in this regard because measures against disrespect and insult against major religions of the world with millions of followers, such as Islam and Christianity, are absolutely necessary to satisfy the public and this is also in accordance with the basic human rights principles.

The clear positions of Bayat, vice-speaker of the Majlis, however is the quickest and most reasonable way to solve existing problems in bilateral relations.

Interest in UK Ties Criticized

NC2603145090 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
17 Mar 90 p 10

[Unattributed commentary: "Why This Eagerness for Ties With the British?"]

[Text] The editorial in one of the English-language dailies on Thursday, 15 March, was about resuming Iranian-British ties, remarks which indicates the selfishness, if not the ignorance, of the writer about the international issues of the Islamic Revolution and the higher interests of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this editorial the British ambassador to Kuwait was cited as saying that Great Britain desires relations with the Islamic Republic, but that this is possible only if Great Britain's preconditions are accepted.

The writer of the editorial says this about resuming political relations between Iran and Great Britain: Now that the British echelons have expressed their desire for ties with Iran, all obstacles to these ties should be removed prior to anything else. Certain points are worth bringing to this writer's attention:

1. The British did not sever political ties with Iran but it was the Iranian Government that took steps to sever its relations after the Islamic Majles approved a bill to do so. Iran then severed its relations with Great Britain and thus displayed its deference to the wishes of millions of the Islamic and revolutionary Islamic ummah as well as all the noble Muslims of the world and gave them something tangible.

2. The experience of Iranian-British relations in general and the performance of the colonial and imperialist British regime in particular has proved that ties with this country have never yielded any benefit for the Iranian Government or nation, nor for any Third World country, especially the Islamic countries.

3. The writer of this editorial may be reminded that the nature of the arrogant British Government will never change. The British ruling system is colonialist and arrogant and based on the exploitation of the oppressed Third World nations. Therefore, even if it were to hand over Salman Rushdie to the revolutionary tribunal of the Muslims—which it will obviously never do—its arrogant nature will still not change. The struggle against arrogance and the arrogant systems and confrontation by nations and the Islamic revolutionary Government of Iran will never end.

4. The eagerness and motivation of the writer of the editorial on resuming ties with Great Britain comes at a time when the British Government has expelled a group of dedicated Muslim Iranian students and has incarcerated Mehrdad Kowkabi, a devout Iranian Muslim, for no reason and without evidence. This belligerent act on the part of the British Government coincided with the anniversary of the decree by His Eminence Imam Khomeini—may his soul be sanctified—on the execution of Salman Rushdie. Does the writer of the editorial, who says that British officials desire ties with Iran, believe that such actions help to remove obstacles in the path of mutual relations?

According to the claims of the editorial's writer and the staff members of the above newspaper, despite severance of British-Iranian ties, economic, social and cultural ties have continued. In fact, Great Britain remains one of Iran's most important trading partners. A well-known Iranian proverb says that when a person was not even permitted to enter the village, he wanted to know the address of the headman!

This comes at a time when the Hezbollahi Revolutionary Iranian nation is unanimously demanding the complete severance of relations between Iran and Great Britain in all fields including commerce and the ban on all English products.

The writer of the editorial has insinuated, in a very British, gentlemanly manner, that the resumption of Iranian-British relations benefits Iran and that if Britain revises its stance in its support of Salman Rushdie there will be no impediment to Iranian-British ties. One must tell such ignorant and simple people that they have the wrong end of the stick. If Great Britain were to agree to withdraw its support of Salman Rushdie, what would motivate him to write such a blasphemous book in the first place?

Is it not true that "The Satanic Verses" was written at the British Government's request and that it guided the apostate Salman Rushdie's hand in doing so?

The writer of the editorial then elaborates that now that the British officials have expressed a desire to resume ties with Iran, all present obstacles should be eliminated.

What incongruous and wishful thinking!

Sirs: Should the Islamic Majles remove and resolve all present obstacles, despite all the animosity, plots, and blows inflicted by the West as well as Great Britain, on the Islamic Revolution as well the system of the Islamic Republic and ultimately on the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him)? Should we ask the British lords: Now what should we do for your excellencies?

The Muslim Iranian nation has never and will never forget the constant and steadfast British support of the hostile actions of the United States. The Muslim Iranian nation will never forget how the British Government has striven with all its might for the destruction of Islamic culture and continues to do so.

One should ask the writer of the editorial: Truthfully, how would the Iranian Government and nation benefit from a renewal of ties between Iran and Great Britain? Will the British Government discard its arrogant and colonialist nature in its ties with the Iranian Government and nation and, would it actually become a solicitous nursemaid, stripped of all hostilities?

It is hereby reiterated before the staff of the above newspaper and the writer of the editorial that they should read the history of British-Iranian ties thoroughly, at least once, from the time of (Darcy) and the oil agreement until the coup d'etat by Reza Khan.

From the time of the agreement by Vosuq ol-Dowleh until the movement for the nationalization of the oil industry, the occupation of Iranian territory in the Second World War until today, the soil of this country has been drenched with the blood of martyrs, who attained martyrdom in their battle and struggle against the British colonialist forces and their agents. The experience of British colonialism and the dossier of the black deeds of this domineering government is so extensive and massive in the eyes of the noble and freedom-loving Iranians that it needs no further elaboration.

Should we have such experiences again? The publication of the "The Satanic Verses," the expulsion of Iranian students and Muslim Iranian citizens, the imprisonment of Kurosh Fowladi and Mehrdad Kowkabi, which are the most recent plots and acts of malice against Islamic Iran and the revolutionary and devout ummah, will definitely not be the last.

In conclusion, if the British Government were to revise its stance regarding the Salman Rushdie issue, the Iranian nation and government still has no need for the resumption of relations with the arrogant British Government because the arrogant nature of the ruling system of that country is unalterable.

Paper Decries Iraq's 'Appalling Crimes'

NC2303110890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
17 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq's Next Crime May Take on More Appalling Dimensions"]

[Text] Farzad Bazoft, a journalist related to the British newspaper Observer, has been executed in Iraq on charges of spying last Thursday.

International appeals for clemency went unheard in Baghdad and by hanging the reporter, the Baathist regime probably tried to once again display how "tough" and "intransigent" it is.

Bazoft had been charged with spy activities to gain information on a secret military installation near Baghdad. He was arrested in Iraq last October.

Meanwhile some verbal condemnation has been pouring on Baghdad from international bodies and a few European governments for human rights violations.

It is interesting to note that the journalist's execution has coincided with the second anniversary of Iraq's chemical program in Halabjah against its own citizens.

By and large the Western media have tried to reflect this latest criminal act of the Iraqi rulers to some extent only. But the mere reflection of a crime is not enough to prevent it from recurring.

Even in regard to the Halabjah holocaust too the Western media did not go beyond giving it wide coverage, probably looking at it as something newsworthy only. Had they acted more committedly in spotlighting those governments that supplied chemical weapons to Baghdad and unmasked the international supporters of this brutal regime, Saddam's supporters would have been forced to transfer part of the international condemnation and pressure on them to Iraq. A wide-scope international condemnation and pressure would have thinned the chances of Iraq's committing, and getting away with its crimes.

But in the absence of any substantial protest and condemnation Iraq is almost sure it can always get away

with its appalling crimes, be it chemical attacks on defenseless citizens of its own, or hanging a working journalist.

The reporter Bazoft's execution, however, has brought Iraqi-British ties into critical stage. But this should not go unnoticed, that the Baathist regime in Baghdad still enjoys politico-military support of the USSR, U.S. and France, especially in the United Nations Security Council.

One flagrant and outrageous instance of such support for Baghdad is the fact that while the U.S. has shown strong reactions towards Libya's chemical research it has totally turned a blind eye to Iraq's huge stockpiling of deadly toxic arms. The U.S. has never gone beyond on a halfhearted reference to Iraq's vast chemical enterprise.

Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn, however, is well aware of the fact that in its anti-Islamic Revolution campaign the West needs him. That is why he never takes the West's verbal threats seriously at all.

As such so long as the world powers cling to their notorious double standards in treating regimes with as black a record on human rights violations and criminal acts as that of Baghdad's, the world will continue to witness more of these acts. The dimensions of the next crime of Iraq's may be much greater, thanks to global powers' indifference and political approach to such questions.

Thousands Cross Astara Border Over New Year

LD2303113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] According to the report of the Central News Unit from Rasht, following the reopening of the borders between Iran and the Soviet Union, from 1 Farvardin [21 March] of this year up to 1100 this morning, 3 Farvardin [23 March], more than 3,710 Muslims from Soviet Azerbaijan have entered the soil of our Islamic homeland through the Astara border customs bridge and have visited their relatives and friends in that town. Most of them spent last night with their relatives. According to the same report, since Farvardin up to noon today about 2,356 of the inhabitants of Astara in Iran have also received three-day exit permits and have gone to Soviet Azerbaijan to visit their relatives and friends there.

It should be noted that today is the last day for the crossings by the subjects of the two countries. However, according to the agreement by Iran and the Soviet Union, the border between the two countries will be reopened again in the near future.

Reunions at Border End

LD2503050590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The New Year reunion between the Soviet and Iranian Azeris and their relatives in an area 45 km from

their borders, which began on 21 March with the opening of the Jolfa bridge after 73 years of separation, ended today. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Makes Tour of Deprived Areas

Speaks to Chah Bahar Residents

NC2503075690 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0330 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out yesterday at a spectacular gathering of the Chah Bahar people that the Islamic Republic accords special priority to deprived and needy areas. Now, he said, in view of the ratification of the Five-Year Plan and the budget for the new year, reconstruction should be commenced seriously.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: With my trip to Sistan va Baluchestan Province, I intend to go to deprived areas and study the people's problems on the spot.

Pointing to the interest of the Sunni brothers in this region in Islam, the president expressed hopes that the unity of the Shiites and Sunnis in the area will become a pattern for the world of Islam and will become an example of coexistence between Shiite and Sunni brothers. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: I sincerely thank you, the Sunni brothers who live mainly in the country's border areas, for having displayed and for continuing to display the utmost sincerity and faithfulness, both during the lifetime of his eminence the imam, may his grave be sanctified, and during the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. I expect the officials to make a sincere study of the people's problems. Rest assured that the government, the Majles, and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution, who spent some time in exile here, will support their efforts.

Continuing his visit, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday inspected the 10th Air Force fighter base of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces. Addressing the personnel of the base, he described this center as an important and sensitive one, and pointed to the need for the government's serious attention to such centers.

The president, who is in the south to inspect the country's deprived areas, also went to Chah Bahar's Iran Bandar and Martyr Kalantari quays and was briefed on the progress being made in the activities of these two ports.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited Garmeh Bid, one of the deprived villages in Chah Bahar, and undertook to bear the expenses of the construction of two schools in the village, in view of the absence of any type of educational center in the area.

Visits Jiroft District, Dam

LD2603124690 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the great dam at Jiroft and then went on to attend a meeting of Jiroft's officials in which he invited them to work harder during the period of reconstruction. Let me draw your attention to the Central News Unit correspondent's report about the president's tour of the country's deprived southern regions:

[Correspondent] Continuing his tour of the country's deprived areas, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Jiroft's great dam, participated in a meeting of the town's administration and coordination council, and, in a splendid gathering of Jiroft's residents, he responded to the people's unparalleled enthusiasm by saying: Responding to so much pure emotion is not possible other than through greater service.

The president, who was speaking in Jiroft's sports stadium to a gathering of the region's brave residents and tribes, referred to his recent visit to the Beshagerd and Kahnaj area and said: As the holy month of Ramadan approaches, let me advise the country's people, and especially you residents of Jiroft, about several fundamental points: first, gratitude for the great blessing which God has bestowed upon us, that is, the rule of Islam and the Koran over the people, a source of pride which throughout history has been confined to the people of Iran. He added: The second point is the maintenance of unity and solidarity. We have many enemies, such as the United States and Britain, in the world who are extremely angry about Islam, and the thing which has made and will make us victorious against them and their infinite military and espionage resources is the maintenance of unity and solidarity. The president added: Any action or word which harms that unity is a great and unforgivable sin; we must all obey the will of the majority.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to Jiroft's great dam, which will guarantee the region's agricultural future, and said: The government has begun extensive efforts to develop the region, and if the irrigation system is improved and the appropriate seeds used, the wealth yielded by the region will increase by many times; that is not unattainable. In future plans, greater attention will also be paid to processing industries and the expansion of roads.

The president stressed the need for more work toward improving the lives of the tribes, and noted: In tribal regions, facilities must be established which will allow them to settle in certain areas and which will allow their children to benefit from educational and health facilities.

Departs Kerman for Tehran

*LD2603191390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] President Hasehmi-Rafsanjani ended his tour of the deprived regions of Kahnuj and Jiroft this evening. Before leaving Kerman, in an interview given to the Central News Unit on the outcome of this visit, the president said: Despite the short time, we gained good information on the situation of Kahnuj and Jiroft after visiting these regions, and useful decisions were also made so as to develop the province of Kerman.

On the basis of the same report, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani left Kerman for Tehran this evening after the formal send-off ceremonies.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Namibia

*LD2403235990 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 23 IRNA—Iran and Namibia formally established diplomatic relations Friday under an agreement signed in the Namibian capital of Windhoek.

The Foreign Ministry in a statement issued here today said that the embassy of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) opened in Tehran in 1986 was renamed as the Embassy of the Republic of Namibia.

The statement also reiterated the two countries's determination to expand mutual ties in various fields in the interest of the Namibian and Iranian nations.

The agreement was signed by the Namibian foreign minister and Iranian deputy foreign minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, now in Windhoek for Namibia's independence celebrations.

Meanwhile, Sheykholeslam in a meeting with Namibian President Sam Nujoma today said 'the Namibian nation's victory over colonialism and racism is in fact the victory of ours and of all those struggling for freedom and independence.'

President Nujoma lauded the Islamic revolution for having stood by the Namibian people at a time when their victory had not been in sight.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran had been among the first few countries to fully recognize SWAPO.

Colombian Official Welcomes Expanded Cooperation

*NC2403082590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] The acting Colombian foreign minister announced that his country welcomes expansion of political, economic and commercial cooperation with Iran.

According to the Central News Unit, the acting Colombian foreign minister, who was speaking to the Islamic Republic of Iran envoy to Colombia, expressed his

country's support for the UN secretary general's measures, especially for implementing Resolution 598 in toto and for establishing overall peace in the Persian Gulf region.

Pakistan

Bhutto Speaks of Future on National Day

*BK2403103390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1425 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Speech by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Pakistan's National Day, 23 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear brothers, sisters, and countrymen: Peace be upon you. I am addressing you on this historic day. Today, 23 March, the entire nation is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Pakistan Resolution, which laid the foundation of a separate state. On this memorable day, under the leadership of the great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Muslims of South Asia made a firm determination to (?establish) their own homeland—a nation in which they could lead their lives according to the Islamic principles of freedom, equality, and brotherhood. Great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah said: The Muslims are demanding Pakistan to achieve economic and spiritual freedom; they want the right to settle their affairs in accordance with their traditions and values; they want to live their lives according to their own faith and culture and on the basis of the principles of brotherhood and equality.

Our forefathers struggled for Pakistan because the Muslims of undivided India were deprived of human rights. Great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah wanted to bring about prosperity to the people; he wanted to establish the people's government and to ensure the supremacy of the people, and to make Pakistan a great nation. These are the very foundations and values of a democratic government. Democracy's distinction and identity lie in the belief that differences are a natural phenomenon, and when these differences are applied to human affairs, they become the first prerequisite of freedom, and when [word indistinct] is imposed from outside, it eliminates the very concept of democracy. In a civilized society, the right to dissent is in the spirit of freedom and human friendship. It was with these ideas in mind that we took the reins of power in our hands. We released political prisoners, ensured press freedom, and lifted bans on student and trade unions.

In democratic countries, the citizens are guided by the constitution, which determines their fundamental rights and duties and stands as a wall against tyranny. National unity and consensus grow under the provisions of the constitution. Martial law is not a constitution of any kind; it does away with the supremacy of law and national consensus. On this occasion of the golden jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution, we should take a vow that we will not repeat the mistakes of the past; we will

safeguard the Constitution and independence, respect law, and begin an era where human dignity will always be upheld.

As a nation, we should clearly define our destiny. The basic aim of the nation should be to safeguard our sovereignty, independence, and our frontiers; to strengthen our political institutions; to work for the economic prosperity and well-being of our people; and to promote freedom, peace, stability, and self-determination in our region as well as the entire world. In the greatness of the people lies the greatness of the nation. Our people are brave and hard-working. They are proud of their capabilities. Most of our people are leading a difficult life. They are facing economic hardships and social pressures, but in spite of this, they will never lose their courage.

We inherited an unorganized society, whose institutions are weak and whose structure is fragile. Because of this, we are confronting several challenges [preceding word in English]. But I have confidence in the spirit and courage of my brothers and sisters. We all wish to see Pakistan a strong and developed nation. The greatness of the people is the greatness of the nation, which depends upon several factors.

The first factor is the civilian government. Civilian government means the rule of law and the rule of the people. The dignity of the people is protected only by law, before which everyone is equal. The greatness of people also depends upon strong national defense. History bears testimony to the fact that the best defense and excellent military strength are with those countries where civilian government is in practice. Let us take a look at the history of the past 50 years: In the wars fought by Third World countries, the countries that were under civilian rule emerged victorious.

One more factor [preceding word in English] deciding the greatness of a nation and the people is international status and dignity. By the grace of God, today Pakistan is viewed with respect in the entire world thanks to the struggle for freedom of its people and also the sacrifices of the people and the elected leaders. We should make use of the gesture of goodwill [preceding word in English] toward Pakistan for the benefit of our country.

Another factor [preceding word in English] for greatness is self-confidence. Self-confidence emerges from self-reliance [preceding word in English]. Without energy, the nation can neither plan any program for economic progress nor can it improve the life of its people. That is why the government recently tried to acquire nuclear power plants [preceding three words in English] from China and France. I hope that these power plants [preceding two words in English] will make our future safe, increase our industrial development, end the power load shedding [preceding two words in English], and strengthen the economy. This is our dream, and we place it before our future generations.

Dear countrymen, social justice and economic progress eradicate greed and avarice. We should cultivate the habit of curtailing our wants according to our means. How long can we get loans? For today's comfort we should not sacrifice tomorrow's peace.

My dear countrymen, let us give up pride and vanity and adopt simplicity. In simplicity there is dignity and beauty. Our political leaders, teachers, doctors, merchants, and salaried people all should set an example of simplicity. We do not want to see a society in our country that has affluence on one side and extreme poverty and class conflicts on the other. Dignity can never be purchased by wealth. Character, service, and sincerity are the principles by which a person commands respect in society.

One more factor [preceding word in English] of the greatness of the people and the country lies in the hopes for the future. Our youth are our future. The reflection of a glorious future kindles the aspirations of youth. They are replete with a spirit for the quest of truth and service to the nation and also reflect the aspirations of the nation.

Today, the youths have guns instead of books in their hands. The educational institutions have become the bases of hooligans. Sentiments and lawlessness have shattered the dreams of the youths. The time has come when the young brothers and sisters have to refashion their dreams. The establishment of peace and order is the responsibility of the provinces, but the entire nation should assist and fully cooperate with provincial governments in eliminating terrorism and violence. The educational centers should be rid of the gun culture. A policy should be framed for the confiscation of arms, so that students will be made to hold pens instead of guns in their hands. All provincial governments should consider this issue seriously.

The democratic government believes that for ensuring stability in the society, economic development is essential, but it is also essential to distribute the fruits of development on a larger scale. The history of economic progress indicates that development with stability can be achieved only when the people are given the opportunity to fully utilize their capabilities. The government has categorically announced that the private sector will have to come forward to play its role in economic development.

According to the manifesto of the Pakistan People's Party, the government has started giving the state industries to the private sector. This will provide our people every opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities. Privatization of the industries will promote industrialization and the consumers' needs will be better taken care of. This will create an atmosphere in which even the general public would like to invest more and more in industries. The people and the workers will both participate in these industries. Another aim of the privatization of industries is to enable even small investors to

purchase shares of industries and to ensure that shares are held not by a handful of people, but by hundreds of thousands. The government will not sell state sector enterprises to some big capitalists only, as the government cares for the general public and realizes their interests and wishes to ensure their well-being. Therefore, while giving public sector enterprises to private sector, some shares will be first given to their workers.

Dear brothers and sisters, a country can neither change its geography nor the political systems prevailing around it. The trial of diplomacy means facing external pressures in such a manner that frontiers are guarded, economic prosperity is maintained, and the country's honor remains high in the world. For peace in the world, it is essential that the nations should accept international law and the procedures of the United Nations as the last mediator to resolve their disputes. Pakistan fully supports the procedures of the United Nations and will provide all possible assistance in making it more effective.

We are surprised that India, in spite of being a signatory to the UN Charter, is unhappy about Pakistan's support of self-determination for Kashmiris. The Simla Agreement makes it clear that the Kashmir dispute exists between India and Pakistan and is to be resolved peacefully. Pakistan will in no way flinch in its support of the self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government desires a comprehensive political settlement of Afghanistan. Establishment of a representative and trustworthy government in Afghanistan in accordance with the aspirations of the people is essential to ensure peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan. It is in our national interest that the Afghanistan refugees return to their homeland in honor and safety.

My brothers and sisters, Islam for us constitutes a fountainhead of power and a beacon of guidance. We seek the blessings of God. Today, when old systems are being phased out and new destinations are being sought, a golden opportunity has been opened up to Muslims to present the basic values of their religion to the world. Mercy and compassion, tolerance and restraint, truth, fair play and justice, and independence—all these values are synonymous with peace and human rights. Islam is a religion that preaches love for humanity, and this is the way it should be presented to others. We have before us the examples of heroes of Islamic history. We should be proud of these great Muslim men and women who contributed to the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, poetry, literature, and politics.

We are the successors to these heroes, and therefore we should perform some remarkable deeds that will rekindle the memory of these heroes, and from these deeds our future generations will seek guidance and be proud. Our great prophet has taught us to share with others whatever we have. We should not keep confined within ourselves; we should share our affection and generosity with others.

On the occasion of the Pakistan Resolution's golden jubilee, the time is calling us, the country is calling us, and history is calling upon you—the sons and daughters of our great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Come, let us unitedly add a golden chapter to the history of our nation. Let us face every challenge, forget personal interests, serve the nation, and achieve only victories. Thank you. Long live Pakistan.

111 Indian Fishermen Released as Agreed

BK2603075090 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0730 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan released 111 Indian fishermen who were sent to jail some time back for straying into Pakistani waters. It may be recalled that India and Pakistan agreed to release each other's fishermen and trawlers in their custody at a joint meeting held in New Delhi earlier this month.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa on Troop Withdrawal, Ties With Israel

BK2603135390 *Colombo International Service in English*
1045 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa says that as long as he is in power, no room will be given for any force or power to subjugate our self-respect. This, he says, will be achieved despite the small size of our nation, the relatively low numbers, and the lack of weapons or official might. The president was speaking as chief guest at the ninth anniversary of Mahapola [student scholarships] at the Bandaragama Madhya Mahavidhyala [Intermediate College] yesterday. The greatest might we have today is confidence in ourselves. This is our might, which has been developed to achieve justice.

President Premadasa points out that we do not recognize might as right, but only right as might. Sri Lanka is always prepared for friendly coexistence with any other country and to have dealings with any other nation on an equal footing. President Premadasa, however, stressed that we are not in any way prepared to compromise our sovereignty and independence, even for a moment. This policy is being pursued now.

The president observed if we are to safeguard the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty, then the Buddhists, who account for 75 percent of the population, should treat the other communities, which comprise the island's 25 percent, with justice. If we fail in this respect, the president warned, the other communities will strive for separation, creating the conditions for outside powers to gain a foothold in our country. The president said that we should be guided by the lessons we learned. Peace in the north and the east is being restored, not because of the government's power or weapons or wars, but because the government did not deviate from justice. The present government is acting toward giving due place to the eligible in employment and in other sectors

without being guided by race, creed, party, religious, and political differences. The president said that this correct approach is possible because they followed the path shown by the Buddha Dhamma.

Touching on Mahapola, the president said the scholarships could not be awarded last year due to the situation of fear that prevailed. This situation has now improved and today students from the north and the east have also come to Bandaragama to receive their scholarship awards. Among the recipients are students from all communities. The students were assembled with their safety assured after a long period.

The president also recalled the total withdrawal of the Indian troops who have been in Sri Lanka since 1987. The affront to our sovereignty was removed with their exit. The president said that today we are able to once again be proud of our sovereignty and independence. The withdrawal of the Indian troops is in keeping with an election pledge, said the president, and added that the new Indian Government announced the withdrawal of troops immediately after taking office. Mr Premadasa thanked the new Indian leadership for this gesture.

The former Indian Government had been putting such concepts like a partial withdrawal, the decentralization of powers, and special security for the north and the east as conditions. President Premadasa said that he totally rejected such conditions. Later, the Indian Government pledged to withdraw their troops by the 31st of December last year. Even to this pledge they had attached preconditions. The president said that this too he rejected. In the situation after announcing the withdrawal, they were engaged in secret plan for continued deployment of the troops. The president noted that fortunately for Sri Lanka, the people of India defeated the Indian Government and installed a new administration headed by Vishwanath Pratap Singh. After a discussion of the issues, the new Indian Government announced its commitment to withdraw the Indian troops totally by the 31st of March this year.

Mr. Premadasa said that he did not agree to hold the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Colombo as long as the Indian troops remained in Sri Lanka. He referred to his resolve not to participate in any conference which included India when their troops are on our soil. The president also spoke of the program planned by him to brand the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] as a force of aggression if they continued to stay here. The president noted that despite the pledges of withdrawal by the former Indian Government, he knew that they were not prepared to honor this pledge. The intellectual community and the journalists in India joined in the chorus of criticism against the former Indian Government's action. The president said that we must pay tribute to them and the people of India for removing that government from power. Mr. Premadasa said that our thanks are due to the new Indian Government leadership for withdrawing the troops one

week before the scheduled date without any preconditions. The Indian Government policy statement commits itself to the independence, territorial integrity, and unity of Sri Lanka. The Indian Government has also announced the ban on activities by any group against Sri Lanka from Indian territory.

President Premadasa said the crimes against Palestinian people by Israel and its occupation of the land of Palestinians have been condemned by the world. The appeals made to Israel by Sri Lanka in this regard were not fulfilled, and the president noted that as a further measure to consolidating our sovereignty, he thought of closing down the Israeli interest section which opened in our country. The president said that Israel should stop its crime against the Palestinians and should agree to an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Mr Premadasa stressed that Sri Lanka will be prepared to reestablish links with Israel if it agrees to these just demands.

The sending of the Indian troops and the decision to close the Israeli interest section are in keeping with the election pledges made during the elections. In this context, the president spoke of the election pledges being fulfilled one after the other. In implementing these pledges, the president said the government is prepared to face whatever the consequences.

Soviet Official Comments on Indian Troop Pullout

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[Text] The visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation has expressed great satisfaction over the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] troops from Sri Lanka. At a news conference held at the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy this morning, the head of the delegation, Gennadiy N. Kiselev, said that his country is happy that the inter-ethnic problems in Sri Lanka are coming to an end. He also said that the Soviet Union attentively follows the developments in Sri Lanka and [word indistinct] at the settlement of inter-ethnic differences in this country. Mr. Kiselev noted that a quick settlement of problems will not only facilitate the normalization of the situation in the island, but also help reach (?rectification) of India-Lanka relations and stability in South Asia. He added that the Soviet Union invariably supports the peaceful initiative of Sri Lanka to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

Participating at the news conference, the minister of state for information, A.K. Wanasinghe, said that the visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka is very significant, as they came here at a time when several important changes were taking place in the country, such as the leaving of the IPKF and the president's decision to close down the Israeli interests section. He said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Soviet Union had helped Sri Lanka greatly in the higher education, economic, and cultural fields.